

سكنا من المذبح

43
DAY
WILL
VING

in

lg

THE SUNDAY TIMES
HALF PRICE OFFER
Buy The Times tomorrow and get The Sunday Times for half price

REVIEW BLUES
Julie Burchill's
dream turns sour
A modern feud, p3

RUGBY WORLD CUP
We must keep the
winning habit
Rob Andrew's diary, p34

20P

THE TIMES



No. 65,283 FRIDAY JUNE 2 1995

Boom years blamed for equity trap Major attacks 'crazy house price spiral'

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister sparked an outcry yesterday when he blamed the "crazy, almost unstoppable" house price spiral of the 1980s for the absence of a feelgood factor now.

John Major told Lincoln businessmen that the "white collar" recession arose after people took on much bigger mortgages than they should have done and then ended up with negative equity.

Opposition parties, charities and mortgage lenders immediately accused Mr Major of attacking home owners who had taken his advice during the housing boom of the 1980s when he was a Treasury minister.

The row coincided with warnings of a further slump in house prices, and one analyst said the slight drop last month could be "the calm before the storm".

Yesterday, Mr Major appeared to criticise the economic policy of the later years of the Thatcher Government, when he was Chief Secretary to the Treasury, as he told businessmen: "I recall the rather crazy situation existing towards the end of the 1980s with no immediately apparent way of stopping it. House prices went spiralling upwards and it was always likely that was going to stop at some

stage. It did. But by the time it stopped, an awful lot of people had committed themselves to mortgages that were a good deal bigger than ideally they should have had.

"Suddenly inflation began to take off, interest rates began to rise, mortgage rates began to rise and house prices stopped rising and fell. The negative equity trap that has done so much to damage confidence began to hit us."

Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor said: "Mr Major is blaming everyone but himself for the mistakes that have caused so much economic hardship to homeowners and others. This is a direct attack on Mrs Thatcher's Government in which he was an economic minister. Given his advice was wrong in the 1980s, why should anyone take his advice now?"

The Liberal Democrats accused Mr Major of playing a leading role in "stoking up the fires of excess and speculative fever" during his stint as a Treasury minister. "People will be disgusted to see Mr Major trying to dodge responsibility for his own actions and attempting to rewrite history," Malcolm Bruce, the party's Treasury spokesman said.

Shelter, the charity for the homeless, condemned Mr Major's remarks as ill-informed and thoroughly disingenuous. Louise Casey, its director of housing services said the Government was responsible for the mess that Britain's homeowners were in. "Policies such as the right-to-buy and the deregulation of the private rented sector,

which reduced social housing stock and increased private rents, have meant that for many people there has been no viable alternative to home ownership," she said.

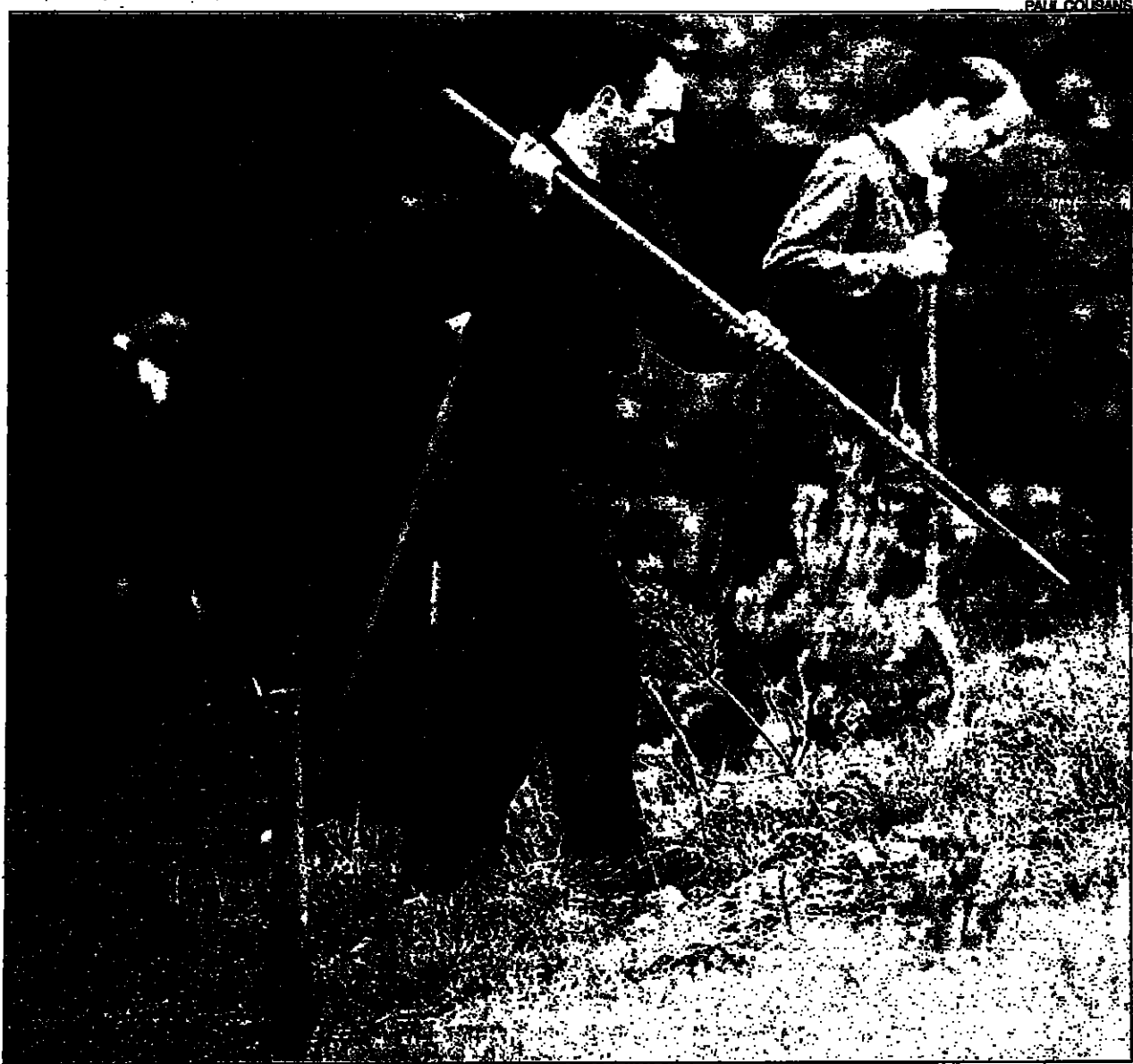
The Council of Mortgage Lenders rejected the implication that lenders were to blame. "Problems most often arise because of redundancy, relationship breakdown or because of reduced incomes when people are put on short working time. It is hard to attribute these to mortgage lenders. By abolishing tax relief and raising interest rates the Government seemed to change the ground rules."

Building societies and City analysts offered no hope for those still struggling with negative equity yesterday, when they reported that the housing market was still falling. The Nationwide Building Society reported that prices fell by 0.7 per cent last month, although they were slightly higher than this time last year.

The Halifax is expected to report a drop in both the monthly and annual figures when it reports later today.

Ian Shepherdson, UK economist at Midland Global Markets, said that last month's marginal fall could be the calm before the storm as people who wanted to sell would be forced to drop their prices over the summer because fewer people were househunting.

Mr Major told the Lincolnshire businessmen, however, that economic circumstances were now picking up and the country was heading for a classic economic recovery.



Police search the wooded country park area near Oldham where the two 12-year-old girls were attacked

Hunt for attacker of girls aged 12

By KATE ALDERSON

POLICE were hunting yesterday for a hooded youth who raped two 12-year-old girls as they walked home from a picnic in the countryside.

The youth, wearing a balaclava with eye-slits, threatened to kill the girls as they pushed their bicycles home from a country park in Oldham. They were forced to strip and were then blindfolded and tied by their shoelaces to a tree.

After raping them, the attacker demanded their names and addresses before walking off with their clothes, which were later found soaking wet in a nearby culvert.

The girls, hysterical and in tears, managed to free themselves and were found in a state of shock by two women out walking. They took them to a house 200 yards away and called the police.

Det Chief Inspector Geoff Isaacs, who is leading the Greater Manchester Police inquiry, said: "This was an absolutely despicable attack on two very respectable, innocent little girls. We are most anxious to catch this man before he has the chance to strike again."

The girls had spent Wednesday afternoon picnicking at a

grassy spot, formerly known as Strinesdale reservoir in the Waterhead district of Oldham. The reservoir area was described by Mr Isaacs as lonely and, in spite of money being spent to improve it, desolate. The girls had been "totally defenceless against this monstrous attack."

Police believe the attacker was a white youth aged between 16 and 18, 5ft 8in tall with a chubby face and build. He was wearing a black zip-up jacket with a zip pocket on the sleeve, a grey t-shirt with red edging and a picture on it, blue-grey jogging bottoms and blue and white trainers. He

had two chains round his neck and a black shoelace necktie with something dangling from it. His fingernails were badly bitten.

An 18-year-old man from the area was interviewed by police yesterday and detectives said they would be questioning a number of other suspects.

Another 12-year-old girl was raped by a teenager last Thursday as she cycled near the Leeds-Liverpool canal in Wigan, Greater Manchester. Detectives on both inquiries are liaising with each other but a police spokesman said they had not linked the two incidents "at this stage".

Boots attacks fat-cat perks

By SARAH BAGNALL

A DAY after 4,500 Sids vented their anger at British Gas's annual meeting over its executives' lavish perks and pay, Boots the chemist has scrapped executive share options, the focus of public anger over corporate "fat cats".

Boots is the first big British company to abandon the options, cherished as a route to instant wealth. The move has been initiated by Sir Michael Angus, the chairman, who is also a member of the Greenbury committee which is trying to draw up guidelines on senior industrialists' pay. The committee is expected to be highly critical of share options when it reports next month.

Sir Michael said: "We have decided not to issue any more share options to executives. Furthermore, we are reducing all the directors' contracts from three years to two, with no compensation." He added that companies are under pressure to reduce the length of executive contracts because they allow directors to receive pay-offs even when they fail.

Sir Michael said a new long-term incentive scheme would link directors' pay to the company's performance in comparison with its rivals.

An earlier incentive plan led to Sir James Blyth, the chief executive, increasing his pay by more than £200,000 last year. He earned £888,000, almost twice as much as Cedric Brown, the British Gas chief whose pay has generated so much fury.

THE British Gas board has inflicted a crushing defeat on its 4,500 small investors who on Wednesday rejected five of the six directors up for reelection on a show of hands. Proxy votes from institutional investors gave the directors an easy victory. Mr Brown was re-elected with 97.6 per cent support.

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES



- WEEKEND Success and the Summer Exhibition
- MAGAZINE Christine Todd Whitman and the road to the White House
- WEEKEND MONEY Your guide to buying a house at auction
- CAR 95 What motor insurance fraud is costing you
- VISION The 7-day TV and radio guide
- THE SIX-SECTION TIMES IS 30p ON SATURDAY

The Queen hears of ordeal of hostages' families

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Queen yesterday heard at first hand the fears of the families of the Royal Welch Fusiliers who are being held hostage by the Serbs.

On a visit to the regiment's base at Haverfordwest in Dyfed, the Queen — who is their colonel-in-chief — talked to the wives and children of five of the hostages.

The Queen was said to have listened intently and with compassion as the wives described their ordeal since their husbands were taken hostage at the weekend.

Karen Smith, 24, whose husband Mark is serving in Bosnia, spoke for the unnamed hostages' wives when she said: "It really perked us



Andrew Hall: the only airman held by Serbs

up to have the Queen visit at a time like this. Now I will be able to write to Mark to tell him the Queen came to support us while he is over there."

A Buckingham Palace

spokesman said: "It was naturally a subdued and anxious atmosphere. It was an opportunity for the wives to tell the Queen about their predicament and their concerns. It was also a chance for the Queen to ask how they are coping with a very difficult situation."

As the Queen offered her personal condolences, the wife of the one RAF officer also being held hostage by the Serbs released his name because she wanted to show how proud she was of him and of the job he was doing in Bosnia.

Flight Lieutenant Andy Hall, 28, of the RAF Regiment, Continued on page 2, col 5

MPs vote on secret Maxwell evidence

By JAMES LANDALE AND JON ASHWORTH

THE House of Commons will vote next week on whether to release secret parliamentary papers relating to the Maxwell trial.

MPs will debate on Thursday whether to allow the court access to evidence given in private to the Commons Social Security Select Committee during its 1992 investigation into the Maxwell affair.

Robert Jackson, Tory MP for Wantage, petitioned the House last month on behalf of Kevin Maxwell, his constituent, to release the papers. If the House agrees, the trial judge, Mr Justice Phillips, will decide whether the evidence can be heard in court.

Frank Field, chairman of the select committee, said Mr Jackson will have to persuade

the House to break its word that evidence would remain private. MPs would have to balance parliamentary privilege against the privilege of a defendant. "It raises fundamental constitutional issues."

Jurors at the Old Bailey were told that bankers to the Robert Maxwell publishing empire grew increasingly alarmed in the weeks before he drowned, despite repeated assurances that there was no cash crisis.

Maxwell's sons Kevin and Ian and two financial executives deny fraud charges. Alan Suckling, QC, for the prosecution, spoke of "dodging and diving" as Kevin tried to placate creditors.

Desperate months, page 6

Second-hand spaceship for sale: serious offers only

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

IF YOUR sports car is too slow and your private jet flies too low, then Victor Rylkov has just the status vehicle for you: a fully operational second-hand Russian space shuttle in mint condition — a snip at \$10 million.

An advertisement appeared in the classified section of The New York Times this week offering to sell the 70-ton Buran spacecraft to any "serious" buyer. Mr Rylkov can also offer another Buran, unsuitable for space flight, and hopes to have two more shuttles available soon. If he is satisfied with the buyer's intentions, he says he can deliver within four to six weeks.

"You can buy almost anything in Russia these days if you know the right people," said Mr Rylkov, Russian-born president of the New York-based import company Trade-Quest International, who is acting as middle-man in the

sale. He claims to have obtained export permission from the Russian Government.

He said yesterday that he had received numerous inquiries in response to the advertisement, which ran on Tuesday and Wednesday. "We're trying to sort out the serious responses at the moment."

"Most of the calls are from businessmen who want to use it as a tourist attraction, but some of them have said they might try to launch the shuttle later on." He hopes that the buyer will be a museum, a collector or Disneyland, and insisted: "There are no foreign governments involved."

The Buran, which was first tested in 1988, cost an estimated \$29 billion to develop. Mystery surrounds the project and it is unknown whether the craft was ever successfully launched into space. The project petered out with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Woodpeckers have purchased holes in insulation surrounding the fuel tank of the space shuttle Discovery, which could delay next week's scheduled launch. A total of 71 holes have been found, ranging in diameter from half an inch to four inches.

sale. He claims to have obtained export permission from the Russian Government.

He said yesterday that he had received numerous inquiries in response to the advertisement, which ran on Tuesday and Wednesday. "We're trying to sort out the serious responses at the moment."

"Most of the calls are from businessmen who want to use it as a tourist attraction, but some of them have said they might try to launch the shuttle later on." He hopes that the buyer will be a museum, a collector or Disneyland, and insisted: "There are no foreign governments involved."

The Buran, which was first tested in 1988, cost an estimated \$29 billion to develop. Mystery surrounds the project and it is unknown whether the craft was ever successfully launched into space. The project petered out with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Woodpeckers have purchased holes in insulation surrounding the fuel tank of the space shuttle Discovery, which could delay next week's scheduled launch. A total of 71 holes have been found, ranging in diameter from half an inch to four inches.

Free gift inside every pack, 33 1/3% extra.

33 1/3% EXTRA FREE

Weetabix & **CRUNCHY OAT & WHEAT BRAN**

The high fibre cereal from Weetabix.

TV & RADIO	42-43	LETTERS	19	ARTS	33-35	SPORT	37-42, 44
WEATHER	22	OBITUARIES	21	CHESS & BRIDGE	40	LAW REPORT	36
CROSSWORDS	22-44	BERNARD LEVIN	18	COURT & SOCIAL	20	INFOTECH	31-32

Major to defy calls for Cabinet shake-out

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR is expected to defy demands from Tory MPs for a radical shake-up of the Government this summer. He is planning to carry out two government reshuffles before the next general election. But with Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, now firmly expected to stay on beyond the July reshuffle, the Prime Minister has decided to leave the big changes until the summer of 1996 when he will be less than a year from the last day on which the next election can be held.

A limited shake-up of the Cabinet, including the replacement of Jeremy Hanley as party chairman and a move for Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, remains almost certain next month. There will also be a number of changes in the junior ministerial ranks, some of them forced on the Prime Minister. Several middle-ranking ministers are understood to have privately indicated to Downing Street that they wish to stand down this summer.

But Mr Major has decided that a substantial revamp, designed to give the Government a fresh look in the run-up to the election, should be delayed until next year.

Mr Hurd may decide to leave the Government at that time. If so, his departure would lead to a substantial shake-up in the top government posts. It is now highly unlikely that there will be changes in the "big three" posts of Foreign Secretary, Home Secretary and Chancellor next month.

Mr Hurd's expected decision to stay on will please party loyalists, who believe that Mr Major will be glad to have him by his side during the critical period this autumn when talk of a challenge to his leadership seems certain to resurface.

As *The Times* reported last month, Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, is a leading candidate to replace Mr

Hanley as party chairman. He is close to Mr Major and, unlike others whose names have been canvassed for the job, is thought by friends to be keen to do it.

Mrs Bottomley is firmly expected to move from the Health Department, battered by a bruising battle with Conservative MPs over the reorganisation of London's hospitals. But she is expected to stay in the Cabinet. Stephen Dorrell, the National Heritage Secretary and a former junior health minister, is seen by many as the most appropriate successor to Mrs Bottomley. Mr Hanley is a strong candidate for the job of National Heritage Secretary.

Mr Major's decision to leave his most significant reshuffle until next year will disappoint the right-wing Euro-sceptic wing of the party, which has been pressing for Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to be moved and Mr Hurd, and a promotion for Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary. It could mean that ministers who are knocking on the Cabinet door, such as Michael Forsyth, the Home Office minister, will have to wait until next year.

A 1996 shake-up will also be designed to give the Government a new look as the Conservatives embark on the daunting task of trying to win a fifth successive general election. The Prime Minister has already brought forward the process for drawing up the next election manifesto. After receiving reports from over 30 policy groups, Mr Major and senior ministers will embark on a tour to consult Tory activists about the manifesto. His efforts are intended to show that the Government is still full of ideas.

Mr Major apparently intends to delay for as long as possible before calling an election, to give the Tories as much time as possible to recover. The most likely date at present is the spring of 1997.



Ealing studios have produced some of Britain's best-loved comedies, including *Kind Hearts and Coronets* (above, starring Alec Guinness), *Passport to Pimlico* (below left) and *The Lavender Hill Mob*, with Alec Guinness and Stanley Holloway. Now it is to come to life again



Ealing studios rescued from receivership

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

EALING Studios, birthplace of classic comedy films such as *Kind Hearts and Coronets*, *The Lavender Hill Mob* and *Passport to Pimlico*, was rescued from receivership yesterday.

The deal, which will be confirmed in the Commons by Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary, on Tuesday, will provide the National Film and Television School with an operational film base and allow the BBC to continue to use the historic West London studios.

In a complex two-stage deal, the studios were sold to the BBC, which then passed them on to the National

Film and Television School for more than £2 million, using money provided from the Sports and Art Foundations, which is itself funded by the pools companies.

A spokesman for the BBC said that it was delighted to have been able to act as an intermediary in the transfer of the studios from the receivers. "This will preserve the site's heritage," he said.

The BBC initially sold the studios to a company called BBK in June 1992 for £6 million, payable in instalments. BBK made a downpayment to the Corporation two years ago, but collapsed with substantial debts. Before yesterday's sale, it still owed the BBC more than £2

million. The structure of deal was designed to recoup the Corporation's losses.

The rescue of the studios represents a major achievement for the British television and film production industry. Feature films have not been produced at Ealing since the mid-Fifties when the BBC acquired the studios and went on to use them for some of its most successful programmes, such as *Colditz* and *The Singing Detective*. BBC programme-makers will now be able to continue using Ealing's facilities at commercial rates.

It is understood that the School intends to relocate from its headquarters in Beaconsfield to Ealing. It has

also submitted an application to the Arts Council for an estimated £2.5 million of National Lottery funding for new equipment and training facilities. Sir David Putnam, who is chairman of the School and a member of the Arts Council Lottery board, is believed to be supporting the application.

Hertsmere Borough Council in Hertfordshire yesterday announced a rescue plan for the disused Elstree Studios, home of *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones*.

The council has threatened to place a compulsory purchase order on the studios, unless their owner, the leisure group Brent Walker, agrees to sell them for film use within 14 days.

RAF pilot feared dead after jet ditches

A pilot was feared dead last night after a Harrier jet ditched in the Irish Sea off the coast of Scotland. An RAF Nimrod and two helicopters, helped by fishing boats, searched for the pilot in Wigtown Bay.

The crew of the fishing boat *Crusader* reported finding debris, including a nose cone and pieces of fuselage, and the Liverpool Coastguard said a helmet, wreckage and pilot's notes had been found.

The research establishment at Boscombe Down, Salisbury, said the aircraft had left on a routine flight with only the pilot on board. An amateur video film, understood to show the Harrier flying upside down seconds before it crashed, has been handed to police.

Euro-vote urged

Labour members of the European Parliament advocated a further weakening of Britain's veto over European legislation. Setting out their agenda for next year's inter-governmental conference on the European Union, they said the party would push for majority voting on the arts and competition policy, such as state aid for industry.

Private jails

The first prisons in Britain to be financed, built and run by private-sector companies will open for business in 1997, Derek Lewis, director-general of the Prison Service, said yesterday. The first two of six proposed jails will be at Fazakerley in Merseyside and Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan. The Prison Service will pay a set fee for each inmate.

Mills case charge

A 17-year-old youth appeared in court yesterday accused of robbing John Mills, the husband of the Director of Public Prosecutions. He was remanded in custody by Westminster South Youth Court until June 8. Ten other youths who were questioned by police after the attack in Camden, north London, on Tuesday, have been bailed for 14 days.

Dog savages girl

A girl aged four needed 70 stitches in her face and may be scarred for life after being savaged by a bulldog. The dog attacked Joy Oliver's whippet before turning on her. Joy underwent plastic surgery at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne. The bulldog has been destroyed and its owner charged with failing to keep it under control.

Press inquiry

The Press Complaints Commission is to reopen its inquiry into the use of subterfuge by *The Sunday Times* to investigate two Tory MPs accused of accepting £1,000 to table a parliamentary question. The move follows allegations of a discrepancy between the paper's evidence to the PCC and its evidence to the Commons Privileges Committee.

Motorist jailed

Gary Scott, 22, of Langham, Essex, who fired blanks from a pistol out of his car window to threaten a driver who had tried to overtake him as they drove along the A22 in East Sussex, was jailed for six months yesterday. He admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to make another motorist believe he was in danger.

Hermit wanted

The chance to become Scotland's seventh island hermit arose yesterday when the island of Texa, off the southern coast of Islay, was put on the market for £90,000. Included is a cottage and the remains of a monks' settlement. The sale was announced after the Scottish Office disclosed that there were six people living alone on Scottish islands.

Scottish sleeper to run all next week

THE threatened Fort William sleeper train service will run at least until the end of next week while three Scottish appeal judges decide whether British Rail acted legally in attempting to close it down.

The judges will consider the appeal made yesterday by British Rail against a court ruling last month that the line should remain open until statutory closure procedures were completed. Lord Hope, sitting in the Court of Session, said it was "an important case". Written judgment is expected on Wednesday.

ScotRail, which operates the service, said it would continue to take bookings until next Friday, whatever the outcome. The court had earlier been told of plans for a new sleeper link between Fort William and London that would mean passengers switching trains in Edinburgh in the middle of the night.

Christopher Haddow, QC, for British Rail, said his intention was to overturn the earlier ruling but, failing that, to argue for alternatives that would balance the books.

Alex Lynch, ScotRail's deputy director and finance director, later played down the proposed new sleeper. "It was a purely hypothetical point made by counsel."

Leading article, page 19

Nursery funding for 4-year-olds divides Cabinet

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

GILLIAN SHEPARD, the Education Secretary, is seeking around £300 million over the next three years to deliver John Major's promise of a nursery school place for every child aged four.

Her efforts to resolve a battle over the shape of the proposed scheme appear to be making little headway. It is understood that a Cabinet committee meeting, scheduled for next week, has been postponed amid divisions over the details of the package and the timing of the introduction of the new places.

The Education Secretary had hoped to settle the dispute by putting local authorities in control of future expansion while appealing the Tory Right by promising trials of vouchers in about a dozen areas. The core of her plan is a bidding system supervised by a new quango or the Education Department in which local authorities and the voluntary and private sectors compete for the cash to provide places for an extra 135,000 four-year-olds.

She wants about £20 million extra this year, plus about £150 million in each of the next two years to get her scheme off the ground.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Jonathan Aitken, the Treasury Chief Secretary,

are worried about the costs of placing nursery education under the control of local councils. They also fear that Mrs Shepard's offer of pilot schemes to try out vouchers is a smokescreen for killing off an idea long championed by the party's Thatcherites.

Rightwingers have said privately that Mrs Shepard's scheme is skewed so heavily in favour of the state sector that it will kill off many of the existing private and voluntary nurseries and come close to "nationalising" provision for the under-fives. It is also being emphasised in Whitehall that the Government is not committed to universal provision of places before the next election for all four-year-olds, 80 per cent of whom already have a place at a local authority nursery school, a private nursery or a play group run by the voluntary sector.

Other right-wing ministers, including Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, and John Redwood, the Welsh Secretary, are understood to have their doubts about Mrs Shepard's proposals. John Major is worried that her plans will end all realistic prospect of vouchers becoming the norm for education of the under-fives.

Probation proposed, page 7

Hostage's family 'very proud of him'

Continued from page 1
based at Honington in Suffolk, is being held at Blazing, west of Sarajevo. His wife, Jackie, who is an air stewardess and lives in married quarters at RAF Honington, was too upset to comment publicly but asked the RAF to speak on her behalf.

Group Captain Ian McNeill, RAF Honington station commander, said: "He is a very able and mature officer with considerable experience. If anyone is able to cope with the situation it will be him." An RAF Honington spokesman

said Lt Li Hall's wife was "very proud of him and decided to name him in recognition of the job he has been doing".

Lt Li Hall is the Queen's standard bearer for the 2,000-strong RAF regiment which he joined ten years ago. He volunteered for duty in Bosnia as an unarmed UN military observer. Earlier this year he served as a UN training officer for Central American troops in Haiti.

He is the only British member of a six-man UN monitoring team based in Serb territory east of Sarajevo. He

and the 33 hostages from the Royal Welch Fusiliers have now been denied radio contact with their UN base. Group Capt McNeill said: "He [Lt Li Hall] is under control of the Bosnian Serb Army. We have no direct contact with him but they are still in their same accommodation."

Lt Li Hall, one of eight RAF regiment officers in Bosnia, last spoke to UN officers on Tuesday before his radio was taken away.

Group Captain McNeill said: "We have no reasons to be overly concerned about him

at this stage. All of the monitoring teams are under similar restrictions. They have water and electricity and are not being shelled, which is better than the situation for a lot of civilians in the area."

Earlier the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh joined in prayers for the safe and early release of the soldiers at nearby St David's Cathedral during a ceremony to grant city status to the birthplace of Wales's patron saint.

British strategy, page 14
UN appeal rebuffed, page 15



Going Places

Soak up these great June discounts



10% off June brochured holidays with:

Airtours 'Summer Sun',
Aspro 'Summer Sun',
Sunworld (excl. Superchoice & Skybargains),
Unijet, 'America' and 'Caribbean',
Cosmos, Greece, Turkey & Cyprus
and Sunset holidays.

5% off all other June brochured holidays and charter flights with:

Airtours, Aspro, British Airways
Holidays, Club 18-30, Cosmos,
Eurosites, First Choice,
Freemove, Jetsave, Olympic,
Sovereign, Sun Express,
Tradewinds, Unijet and Virgin
Holidays.

1,000s OF EXCLUSIVE HOLIDAY BARGAINS AVAILABLE

Call into your local Going Places shop.

Or for credit/debit card bookings call **01614 747 555**
Mon-Fri 8am-10pm, Sat-Sun 8am-8pm.

Currency and American Express Travellers Cheques available from all our shops.



With discounts like these shouldn't you be Going Places?

Offers apply to selected June brochured overseas inclusive holidays and charter flights, booked between 2nd and 9th June 1995, subject to purchase of Going Places brochure at the time of booking. All holidays subject to availability. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Full details available at Going Places Shops. First charge applies to credit/debit card bookings. ASTA 48226 ATOL 3873

John Major

Burchill magazine goes down with dirty washing flying

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH AND EMMA WILKINS



Burchill taking legal advice

A SPECTACULAR row between Julie Burchill, the newspaper columnist and co-owner of *The Modern Review*, and the magazine's editor Toby Young, is leading to its closure today.

Mr Young announces in his editorial that today's issue is the last and blames a "lesbian" affair between Miss Burchill and one of the magazine's contributors, Charlotte Raven, a 25-year-old freelance journalist, for the closure. Mr Young said Miss Burchill's attitude to the magazine changed when she left her husband to move in with Miss Raven.

He said: "She became a radical, feminist, lesbian, separatist and wanted to turn the magazine into a cross between *Spare Rib* and *The New Statesman*," he said. "She and Charlotte became more and more critical, trying to win over the other staff. The atmosphere was very acrimonious. When she said she didn't want to see my face again, I took that as her resignation from the board."

Miss Burchill, 34, is considering legal action over Mr Young's unilateral decision. The pair co-founded the magazine devoted to popular culture four years ago. Miss Burchill, whose best-selling novel *Ambition* explores various aspects of lesbianism, has left her husband Cosmo Landesman, a writer, by whom she has a nine-year-old son, Jack.

While she has denied a sexual affair with Miss Raven, a contributor to *The Modern Review*, Miss Burchill has publicly confirmed that the couple are in love.

Mr Young said that when Miss Burchill moved in with Miss Raven, her aims for the magazine changed. There have been 21 issues of the black and white publication, which is produced on a tight budget from Mr Young's home in Shepherd's Bush, west London. "We have always scrimped and saved. The investment over four years amounted to £40,000," he said. "Two months ago I asked Julie if she was prepared to put in another £5,000 but she didn't want to."

"I therefore took the decision to close without consulting her," he added. Mr Young said it was foolish of Miss Burchill to think of taking legal action. "We own half of the voting shares each. She is silly to be thinking of legal action. I don't know where she gets the impression she owns 51 per cent. She can't have looked at her bank statements for five years," he said. In an article to his readers, explaining the reasons for closure, Mr Young wrote: "As our enemies have long predicted, Julie Burchill

and I have fallen out and we're bringing our empire down with us. Having taken aim at every British cultural icon, we have turned our guns on each other. We have parted company in a barrage of expletives, vowing never to speak to each other again."

Miss Burchill said she believed the unilateral decision to close the magazine was illegal. "To say I am upset is not the word — I am amazed. I understand that what he is doing is illegal and I

am taking legal advice. A long time ago a lot of people were saying he was the wrong man for the job and I tried to change the direction of the magazine. He decided if he couldn't have it, no one would. The magazine ran out of money because of the moronic direction he was taking it. He doesn't have an idea in his head," she said.

The magazine prided itself on providing low culture for high-brows. Its reviews included paeans of praise for Arnold Schwarzenegger films.

David Rumciman, a research scholar at Trinity College Cambridge, wrote a lengthy essay on the behaviour of England football player Paul Gascoigne under the title *Wazza Wazza Waz Gazza?* The magazine has not been without its critics, including Martin Amis, the novelist, who dismissed its staff as under-achieving self-publicists.



Raven, left, with whom Burchill lives, and Toby Young

and I have fallen out and we're bringing our empire down with us. Having taken aim at every British cultural icon, we have turned our guns on each other. We have parted company in a barrage of expletives, vowing never to speak to each other again."

Miss Burchill said she believed the unilateral decision to close the magazine was illegal. "To say I am upset is not the word — I am amazed. I understand that what he is doing is illegal and I

British girlfriend at Reeve's bedside

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE British former girlfriend of the paralysed Superman actor Christopher Reeve joined a dozen members of his family, including his divorced parents and his wife, at his hospital bedside last night.

A spokeswoman at the University of Virginia Medical Centre said: "It sure looks like they are a close family and they are being very gracious at a difficult time."

Doctors said that with every hour that he lies breathing only with the aid of a respirator, Reeve's chances of survival grow dimmer. Reeve, 42, broke his neck and injured his spinal cord when he tumbled headlong from a horse on Saturday.

Gae Exton, who had an 11-year relationship with the star, flew to America by Concorde with their children earlier this week. The former model and daughter of a Bournemouth hotelier met Reeve during the shooting of the first Superman film. The couple have two children, Matthew, 16, and Alexandra, 12.

They split up in 1988 but Reeve gave Ms Exton the home they shared in west London and returned to Britain frequently to see his children. He is now married to the actress Dana Morosini, with whom he has a three-year-old son.

Experts in spinal injuries say that the actor's failure to regain any movement in the first 24 hours after the accident means his chances of recovery were dwindling rapidly. "Every hour after that it becomes less likely that you'll have meaningful neurological recovery," Mindy Aisen, head of the spinal injury department at Berk Rehabilitation Hospital in New York, said.

Reeve's most recent role was as a paralysed policeman in a television film, *Above Suspicion*, shown in America last month. He visited a spinal injuries unit to research the part and an interview in which he spoke about the patients was televised on Wednesday.

"It is frightening how easily life can change," Reeve told the interviewer. "One moment everything is fine and then the world falls apart. It is terrifying what these people have to face."

The hospital said that Reeve's condition had not changed since he was admitted on Saturday. The complex fractures to his first and second cervical vertebrae at the base of the skull and the resulting damage to the spinal cord have effectively cut off all signals from the brain controlling bodily movement.

A British spinal injuries expert said that if Reeve did survive, he might never breathe unaided again. Kookal Krishnan said the actor was likely to have to recuperate for a year before surgery could take place to help him breathe more independently. He suspects Reeve will always need help from a ventilator, but this would not condemn him to a life wired to a machine. Sophisticated radio-controlled medical equipment could be inserted into his body to help him breathe, Mr Krishnan, a consultant at Southampton District General Hospital, said.

"The fact that the site of the fracture is so high and that he is not breathing suggests this poor man may never breathe again," he said. "But we can put radio frequency-controlled stimulators inside a person's chest connected to the nerves that supply the diaphragm. By using a small radio transmitter, we can stimulate the person to breathe." Such equipment costs up to £45,000 in the United States.



Reeve in his first Superman film, released in 1978

Accused reprieves courtroom wasp

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WASP that was about to suffer the ultimate punishment at the hands of a prosecuting solicitor was rescued yesterday by an animal rights activist on trial for protesting against veal exports.

Elizabeth Rose Crocker asked for proceedings at Easingwold, North Yorkshire, to be halted because the wasp's buzzing was affecting her concentration. The magistrates agreed, but as Simon Orme, the prosecuting solicitor, prepared to send the offender with some rolled-up papers, Crocker jumped to her feet, pleading: "Please don't hurt it."

For the next three minutes the wasp flew around the tiny

No 2 courtroom, with its 20ft-high ceiling, before being ushered, unharmed, through a window.

Crocker, 33, of Sandiford, Newcastle upon Tyne, had denied wilfully obstructing the highway at Strensall, near York, during a protest earlier this year against the export of five veal calves by Albert Hall Farms, of Strensall. Mr Orme, a former soldier, was on his feet addressing the magistrates when Crocker announced: "I am being distracted and I can't concentrate."

When proceedings resumed, she was found guilty, conditionally discharged for 12 months and ordered to pay £100 costs.



Dennis Wise, appealing against a three-month term for criminal damage and assault, arriving at court yesterday flanked by his agent and solicitor

Taxi driver 'invented assault by footballer'

BY EMMA WILKINS

A TAXI-DRIVER who claimed he was assaulted by Dennis Wise, the Chelsea and England footballer, invented the attack in order to safeguard his livelihood, a court was told yesterday.

Gerald Graham, 65, could have lost his badge over the fracas. Southwark Crown Court was told, Wise, 28, who is appealing against a jail sentence of three months for criminal damage and assault, claimed he lashed out at Mr Graham to try to stop him driving off after the taxi door hit his girlfriend, Geraldine Lemon, last October.

Adrian Fulford, QC, for Wise, said that Mr Graham, who admitted that he had heard Miss Lemon scream,

had been convicted by magistrates of assaulting a passenger five years ago. "You would have lost your badge if you were found guilty of a second assault on a passenger. You realised that unless you shifted the blame, you would lose your livelihood," But Mr Graham, who had been fined £50, said the idea had never entered his mind.

Mr Fulford said: "Miss Lemon was getting out of the cab when you moved forward quickly," Mr Fulford said. "It knocked her off her feet, banged into her arm and she was dragged along, screaming." Mr Graham said his foot had accidentally slipped off the brake as he dodged Wise's blows.

After Wise and Miss Lemon had left a nightclub in Kensington, Mr

Graham had stopped for them, and Wise asked him to go to Shepherd's Bush. But after Miss Lemon had got in, the couple asked for a destination beyond the six miles which drivers are obliged to take passengers.

Wise "went berserk" and smashed the partition between the driver and passenger with his feet when Mr Graham refused to take him, the taxi driver said. Mr Fulford said Wise could not have kicked the glass, because he had been injured playing football and had his ankle strapped up.

Mr Graham had submitted a compensation claim for repairs to damage on his taxi unconnected with the incident. Mr Fulford said, Mr Graham said he could not account for the claim

form, which he said was filled in by his business partner. Despite having claimed lost earnings for 12 days while his taxi was repaired, Mr Graham admitted that he had worked for a few hours on some of those days. The appeal, before Judge Butler, QC, continues today.

A spectator who punched a footballer during a Second Division match was yesterday banned by High Wycombe magistrates from all football grounds for 12 months. Gary Bray, 32, hit Jason Cousins, of Wycombe Wanderers, during a home match against Huddersfield Town last December. Bray, who admitted assault and disorderly conduct, was fined £325 and told to pay £75 compensation and costs.

Fans cry foul over phoney Germans

BY EMMA WILKINS

FANS of American football are being offered free tickets as compensation after they watched an "international" match in which almost all the players came from Sheffield.

The 1,000 spectators cheered wildly when the home side, Sheffield Great Britain Spartans, took to the field against a team apparently from Munich. Both teams in the Sheffield Arena fell silent as the German national anthem was played before the game last Saturday. Some observers were impressed that the "German" players did not need to remove their helmets and facemasks despite the heat.

But their faces were concealed because the Munich team was made up almost entirely of players from the Sheffield reserve side, who were rushed on to the field when the real Germans failed to turn up.

Terry Smith, Spartans manager and club owner, admits to some embarrassment. "Faced with a shortfall in Munich players, I had no alternative but to supplement the German side, or call the game off, which would have caused more disappointment. If anyone is upset they can have free tickets for three games," he said. He claimed that six genuine Munich players did turn up, but only three played together at any one time. He was unable to name any of the German side.

One fan said he was disappointed and felt cheated. He had only realised that the foreign side was home-grown when a player took off his helmet at the end and he recognised him as one of the Sheffield reserves. "I feel let down. We were wildly clapping our own side but in fact we were being duped," he said. The final score was 108-62 in favour of the Spartans.

THE COMET PRICE

YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER

ORANGE MOBILE PHONES FROM UNDER £100

Orange is the UK's newest mobile phone network and is now available to over 70% of the UK population and is planning to expand to 90% this year. Orange offers 5 tariff plans to suit every pocket and a number of features and benefits:

- BILLING BY THE SECOND**
Orange charges calls by the second so you only pay for the time you talk.
- PHONE FEATURES**
Including Call Divert, Call Barring, Call Waiting, Call Hold and Answerphone Service. Caller ID on Nokia Orange.
- OPEN TEL. 24 HOURS WEEKDAYS**
All stores open Sunday. Ring FREE on 0500 600570

MOTOROLA MRI
(Illustrated left)
Up to 60 minutes talktime or up to 10 hours standby time
170 number memory
was £149.99

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT* OR BUY NOW PAY '96**

THE COMET PRICE £99.99

SAVE £50

NOKIA ORANGE
(Illustrated right)
Up to 80 minutes talktime or up to 18 hours standby time
179 number memory
was £249.99

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT* OR BUY NOW PAY '96**

THE COMET PRICE £199.99

SAVE £50

ORANGE NETWORK COVERAGE MAP

High quality coverage available now
Service planned in 1995

COMET - THE AWARD WINNING RETAILER

It's no surprise Comet won the Mobile News Award as Best Multiple Retailer for 1995. We stock top brand names including Nokia and Motorola and because there's so much choice, our staff are trained to help you make the right selection.

WHAT THE MOBILE NEWS AWARD JUDGES SAID:

"Comprehensive and thorough approach"
"Excellent staff training"
"Serious approach to helping customers make the right choice"

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Clearer calls, no eavesdropping.

2 HOUR REPLACEMENT

Orange will replace faulty phones within 2 hours.

12 MONTHS FREE INSURANCE

Against theft, loss and accidental damage on purchases before 31st October 1995.

BETTER COME TO COMET

THE COMET PRICE PROMISE
The lowest price guaranteed with our Price Promise

AFTER SALES SERVICE
Your satisfaction guaranteed by our specialist teams

OPEN TEL. 24 HOURS WEEKDAYS
All stores open Sunday. Ring FREE on 0500 600570

*100% interest free credit on purchases over £100. Repayment by 10 equal monthly payments. 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £200. Deposit 10% = £20. No further payments for 10 months. After 10 months the balance of £180 is repaid in 9 monthly payments of £20 each. Total amount repaid = £200. 0% APR. **Buy Now Pay 96. For example: Cash price = £200. Deposit 10% = £20. No further payments for 10 months. After 10 months the balance of £180 is repaid in 9 monthly payments of £20 each. Total amount repaid = £200. 0% APR. **Buy Now Pay 96. For example: Cash price = £200. Deposit 10% = £20. No further payments for 10 months. After 10 months the balance of £180 is repaid in 9 monthly payments of £20 each. Total amount repaid = £200. 0% APR.

Cheering Dubliners greet Prince and silence protesters

FROM ALAN HAMILTON
IN DUBLIN

THOUSANDS of Dubliners took to the streets yesterday to offer the Prince of Wales a heartfelt welcome, marred only by an isolated egg-throwing incident.

Republican Ireland showed itself kindly disposed towards the first official visitor from the old enemy's royal house for 84 years, with Irish dignitaries spouting sometimes embarrassing speeches of greeting, and the crowds on the pavements cheering and applauding with gusto to drown out small but vociferous knots of protesters.

College Green in the city centre was packed with spectators crammed behind barriers as the Prince undertook an impromptu 400-yard walk from a newly opened British tourist office to the gates of Trinity College, accompanied by Dick Spring, the Irish foreign minister. Surrounded by a phalanx of police and television crews, he stopped frequently to grasp some of the hundreds of outstretched hands. The Prince's warm welcome encouraged speculation that the Queen would be issued an invitation to visit Ireland soon.

Among the crowd yesterday a small group of demonstra-



Supporters and demonstrators gathered to greet the Prince on the first visit to Ireland by a member of the Royal Family for 84 years. Police made a number of arrests

tors, who established a presence at the Prince's every public appearance, shouted "Remember Bloody Sunday" and invited him to go home. The Prince had just moved on from talking across the barrier to Eileen McBain when an

egg, clearly destined for him, splattered Mrs McBain's coat. Two more hit the motorcade crawling alongside the royal party.

Police immediately crowded closer round the Prince, but he continued his glad-handing of

the crowd with a regal lack of concern. Three men were immediately arrested and taken to a nearby police station for questioning.

Mrs McBain, 53, was furious. "I'm so annoyed at these people; I'm just glad Prince

Charles didn't get hit. My clothes are ruined, but I'll live with that; it was such a thrill to talk to him."

Shortly afterwards, in the quadrangle of Trinity College, where the Prince saw the sixth century manuscript of *The*

Book of Kells, another man who shouted an obscenity at the Prince was frog-marched away by plain-clothes police.

In the middle of another crowd of 500, gathered to see the Prince pay a call on the Lord Mayor at The Mansion

House, two demonstrators stood side by side, passing the waiting hour in amiable conversation. One displayed a Union Jack and a placard reading: "Welcome, Prince Charles"; the other held up a banner proclaiming: "No wel-

come for Para Prince." Among the crowd, the great majority was delighted to see, hear, and preferably touch the Prince. "I never thought I'd see the day when an English Prince came here; it's unbelievable, and a wonderful thing," Mary Lawless said. Vivienne Hannigan added: "He's a very brave man to come here. I'm a great admirer. We applauded and shouted loud enough to drown out the protesters."

Inside The Mansion House where the city council gave their visitor a prolonged ovation, John Gormley, Dublin's first lord mayor from the Green Party, told the Prince that his visit was "undoubtedly the most symbolic and important royal visit ever to our city and country".

The Prince unveiled a portrait of King George IV and then visited a community centre in Westland Row, an area of the city blighted by high unemployment. There he met children, pensioners and social workers, and took only a sip from a proffered glass of Guinness.

After a private lunch with Mary Robinson, the Irish President, the Prince was taken by helicopter to County Meath to see one of Ireland's outstanding archaeological remains, the megalithic tomb of Newgrange.



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Cholera vaccine shortage need not deter travellers

Dr Thomas Stuttford

IN THE past cholera was a passport to the white man's grave. Now, with a moderate degree of hygiene and care with the water supply, it is usually only people living in very deprived circumstances, rather than the travellers or those enjoying a western standard of comfort, who are likely to catch it.

The vaccine, lacking the virulence of the original strain, causes cholera but does not cause cholera. As the holiday season approaches, and hundreds of thousands escape to exotic locations around the world, there is no cholera vaccine in this country, either in clinics or doctors' surgeries, which has not exceeded its sell-by date. The last stocks left the manufacturers in April.

Vaccination against cholera is not usually important; being careful to avoid water rendered murky by sewage is what keeps tourists healthy.

The scarcity of the vaccine has arisen because the licence for its manufacture has been transformed from Wellcome to Evans Medical, and every aspect of its production has to be reappraised. Manufacturers hope new supplies will become available next month but there is no certainty this deadline will be met.

The vaccine gives only 40 to 50 per cent protection and has a life of about six months. Medical cynics have long said that its principal value has been to gain a certificate that

will save the international traveller from the risk of being injected, compulsorily, in the medical department of some far-away airport.

It may be difficult to catch cholera, whereas some diseases, rather more lethal, are all too readily spread by dirty needles.

The advice, as always when visiting countries where standards of hygiene differ from our own, is to avoid local food unless its origin is absolutely certain, to drink whisky or gin and tonic without ice, not to use water for teeth cleaning, to eschew salads washed in water and to choose well-cooked, and little-handled items from the menu.

A new treatment for leukaemia has increased the average survival time for victims by almost two years, a trial has shown (Nigel Hawkes writes). Medical Research Council scientists report in *The Lancet* that a drug made from interferon — a natural antiviral product — is more effective in treating chronic myeloid leukaemia than existing drugs.

The product, Wellferon, is produced by Wellcome, which is seeking clearance to market it. Trial patients given Wellferon lived for an average of five years and one month, compared with three years and four months for those given conventional drugs.

Between 500 and 600 people develop chronic myeloid leukaemia every year in the Britain.

Row forces police to fly fingerprints to the US

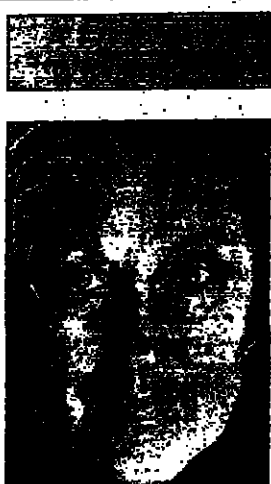
By STEWART TENDLER

FINGERPRINTS collected at the scenes of crimes are being flown to America for analysis after the collapse of a £50 million computer matching system.

The weekly flights are a temporary measure after a dispute between a consortium of 37 forces and IBM, the system operator. Another contractor is expected to take over by the end of the year.

The prints are being sent to the headquarters of another computer company in Arizona, which holds a collection of more than two million fingerprints. The new transatlantic service is said to be cheaper than the original contract and a number of successful matches have been made.

When the British system first collapsed police were forced to use time-consuming manual systems. A new national system organised by the Home Office is eventually expected to take over. Scotland Yard and Kent already operate their own systems independent of the consortium.



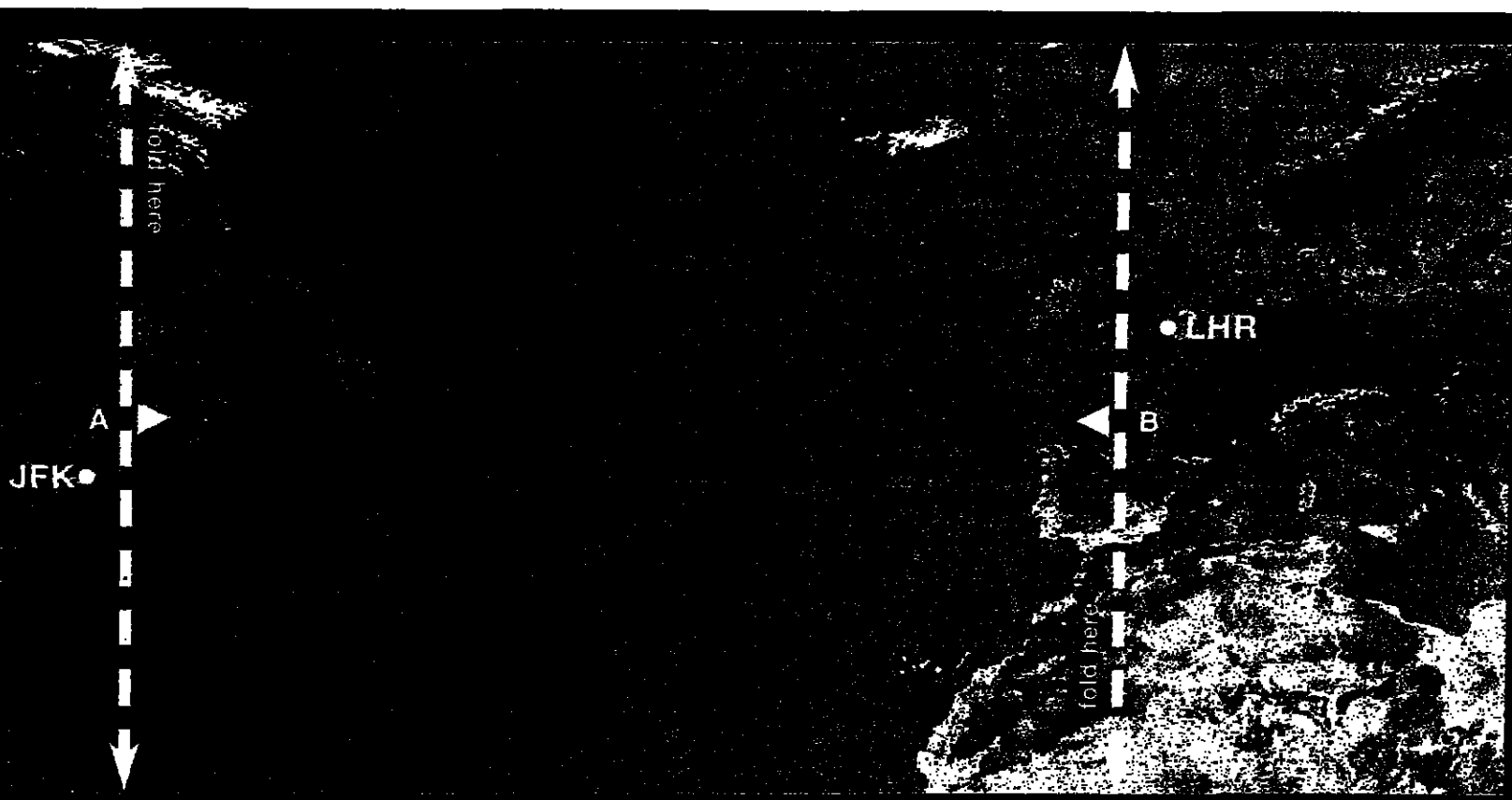
I have thought of putting a tally-board on the side of the house: "Slain by users of the B184 in 1995: 12 hedgehogs, one mallard, 53 toads, a barn owl..."

Germaine Greer's diary begins in *The Times Magazine* tomorrow.

No.7 in a series, from the airline dedicated to the business traveller.



To Better Understand Our Six Daily Return Flights Between Heathrow And JFK, Fold "A" To "B"



Conducting business in New York is now easier thanks to our six daily return flights.

At American Airlines, everything we do is built around your needs as a business traveller.

Including bringing entire continents together. A feat we perform daily from Heathrow to JFK at

08:00, 10:00, 12:00, 13:30, 16:00, and 18:30. And for your comfort, our 10:00 and 16:00 flights

are non-smoking. So for reservations and information on how to fold "A" to "B", call your travel

agent or American Airlines on 0181 572 5555 or 0345 789789 (outside London). Or for holiday

packages, call American Airlines Holidays on 0181 577 9966.

American Airlines
HOLIDAYS

American Airlines
Something special in the air.

Pension fund shares were misused in a last desperate attempt to stave off collapse, Old Bailey told

Maxwells 'dodged and dived' to save empire

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL
AND JON ASHWORTH

KEVIN MAXWELL spent weeks "dodging and diving" in a frantic attempt to keep his father's crumbling publishing empire intact, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Bankers were duped into believing that the sale of shares in Scitex, an Israeli computer-imaging company, would reduce crippling high overdrafts. But the money was not theirs for the taking: it had been borrowed illegally from Maxwell pension funds and pledged as security against a web of loans, the court was told.

Alan Suckling, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury that three months before the mysterious death of Robert Maxwell in November 1991, the empire already had borrowings of £845.5 million.

The directors decided the group could carry on trading by rolling over debts and disposing assets but their plan failed to meet targets and over £100 million of the pension fund shares were misused in a last desperate attempt to stave off collapse.

The Maxwell group crashed after a number of banks and securities houses called in their loans or took flight. The sequence was triggered by the



Suckling: told of "crisis"

failure to settle a foreign exchange transaction — a lapse that Kevin described in a private memo as a "snafu in the system". Mr Suckling said.

Kevin and Robert Maxwell managed to stall the banks by pledging assets, including shares in Mirror Group Newspapers and Maxwell Communication Corporation.

Kevin Maxwell, 36, faces two charges of conspiracy. One alleges that he plotted with his father to defraud Maxwell pensioners of more than 5.4 million shares in Scitex Corporation worth £100 million. The other alleges that he conspired with his brother

Ian, 38, and the financial executives Larry Trachtenberg, 42, and Robert Bunn, 47, to defraud pensioners of more than 25.2 million shares in Teva Pharmaceutical Industries worth £22 million. All four deny the charges.

On the second day of the trial Mr Suckling described a board meeting in July 1991 as the crisis deepened. Reference was made to cash-flow projections between July and December 1991 which showed planned asset sales would slice company debt from £845.5 million to £209 million. The key was a £490 million disposal of assets planned for December. A number of loans were to fall due in September, among them a £100 million facility with Lloyds Bank.

According to the projections, an initial £48 million would be raised in August through the sale of shares in Scitex bought by Bishopsgate Investment Management (BIM) on behalf of pensioners and later "sold" to Robert Maxwell Group (RMG) but never paid for.

In December, a planned demerger of MCC was to produce £350 million, with a further £100 million from property sales. Mr Suckling said: "These were fairly crucial assumptions. Any delay in disposals or falls in values

would of course adversely affect the position. You might like to ask yourself: if you were the trustee of pension fund assets would you hand over £100 million to such a company to help it pay its debts? The answer may be, I don't know. You must be joking."

It transpired that certain debts had not been taken into account, the court was told. At a key board meeting in July, BIM agreed to sell the Scitex shares to RMG.

Mr Suckling said: "The prosecution case is that Robert and Kevin Maxwell decided to use the 5.4 million Scitex shares, not for the benefit of pensioners but quite simply to pay off the interest debts of RMG. They decided to take a chance and use the shares to help RMG, which had its back to the wall. None of the proceeds went to BIM and a number of banks were led to believe they would benefit."

Later that month Basil Brooks, finance director of MCC, realised RMG owed MCC up to £130 million and sought legal advice before alerting non-executive directors and tendering his resignation. He had been told by both Robert and Kevin Maxwell that this debt would be paid from the proceeds of Scitex shares. Mr Suckling said: "It



Ian Maxwell arriving at Chichester Rents, the Old Bailey annexe, before yesterday's hearing

may have been a shock to discover there was this further debt that had not been taken into account." After inter-company debts emerged, Kevin agreed to introduce a repayments schedule.

From July both Kevin and Robert Maxwell had meetings with banks and other creditors who believed Scitex shares would be available to meet debts.

Mr Suckling said a cash-flow chart forecasting debts and credits included the disposal of £120 million to RMG from Scitex. "But there is no provision for BIM to receive a penny," he added.

At the end of July the Bank of Nova Scotia agreed to carry

out a foreign exchange transaction for MCC. When payment was not forthcoming, Peter Kluge, a senior executive, called Kevin Maxwell and informed him that unless payments were received within 30 minutes he would place the matter in the hands of his lawyers. Kevin abandoned a fishing trip to Normandy as he attempted to cope with the crisis. In an exchange of letters in early August he repeatedly denied there was a liquidity crisis in the group.

The jury was shown documents which allegedly showed that the sale of Scitex shares would release funds for the payment of various debts. NatWest became increasingly

alarmed after the companies "massively" exceeded their agreed overdrafts. By the beginning of August, RMG was more than £90 million overdrawn against an agreed facility of £23 million and MCC was £51 million overdrawn against a £17 million limit.

NatWest executives expressed concern and said they were of the view that they had become "a lender of last resort". Mr Suckling said: "That may not be true. It may have been the pension funds which were."

Barclays, which had lent £35 million to the group, expressed its concern about gathering financial difficulties but said it "did not want to sit

on the sidelines waiting until you reach the precipice."

The bank reported in an internal memo: "September is a torrid month for RMG and Kevin Maxwell is counting the days until receipt of the Scitex moneys in October. The cash position is tight and there is nothing to spare."

The Scitex shares were finally sold on October 17 and £123.5 million was used to reduce the NatWest overdraft. A further £30 million went to the Bank of Nova Scotia but two other lenders — Bankers Trust and Swiss Volksbank — "didn't get anything: nor of course did BIM. There was nothing left".

The trial continues today.

Dixons

ORANGE MOBILES FROM UNDER £100

ORANGE MOTOROLA MOBILE PHONE

- 180 name/number memory (inc. SIM card memory).
- 2 line LCD display for clear display of number dialled.
- Up to 60 minutes talktime/11 hours standby.
- Call divert, call barring, call waiting and call hold.

Was £149.99.

Dixons Deal

£99.99

ORANGE NOKIA MOBILE PHONE

- 179 name/number memory (inc. SIM card memory).
- 4 line LCD display with menu driven screen prompts.
- Up to 80 minutes talktime/18 hours standby.
- Complete with rapid travel charger.

Dixons Deal

£199.99

10 MONTHS
0%
INTEREST
FREE
£40
PHONE ACCESSORY
DISCOUNT VOUCHERS
Ask for details

Dixons
THERE'S A GREAT DEAL GOING ON

OVER 350 HIGH STREET BRANCHES NATIONWIDE. TEL: 0181-200 0200 FOR YOUR NEAREST BRANCH

Written quotations from Dixons, Department MK, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 7TG

THE LATEST IN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FROM ORANGE

Orange is one of Europe's fastest-growing mobile phone networks, offering state-of-the-art mobile communications at a price you can afford.

• **Billing by the second.**
Unlike other networks which round your call up to the nearest minute or half-minute, Orange charges calls by the second, so you don't pay a penny more than you need to.

• **Inclusive talktime.**
From 60 minutes to 9 hours of inclusive talktime depending on which tariff you choose.

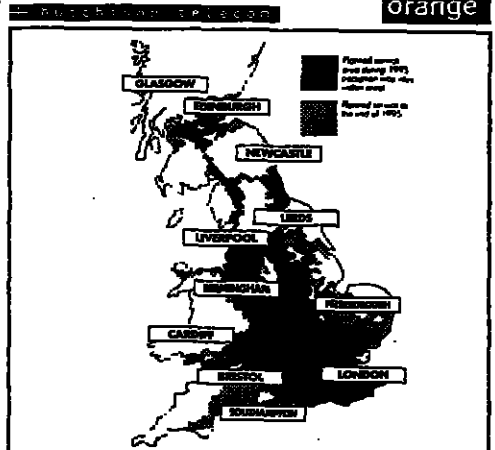
• **An extensive and growing network.**
Orange now covers over 70% of Britain's population, with plans to expand to 90% during 1995.

• **A tariff to suit every pocket.**
With 5 Orange plans to choose from, you can be certain of the best value for money, whether you're an occasional caller or the busiest of business callers.

• **The very latest phone features** — including call divert, call barring, call waiting, call hold, answerphone service, plus caller ID (available on Nokia Orange).

• **Latest digital technology** — for superb service, clearer calls and no eavesdropping.

orange



NEW & EXCLUSIVE 'WHAT MOBILE' GUIDE FREE TO DIXONS CUSTOMERS

This exclusive magazine is full of information to help you make the right choice, when buying a mobile phone. Please ask for a copy in-store.

NHS network 'a hacker's dream'

By CATHERINE MILTON

INTIMATE details of patients' medical care could be sent around the world for anyone to see on a new NHS computer network, doctors' leaders said yesterday.

Lax security arrangements for the NHS network could turn the system into a paparazzi's dream, Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association, said. Well-known people would be particularly vulnerable but everyone could find their health history in the hands of the police, insurance agencies and employers.

The BMA is urging the Government to make breaching confidential health information a statutory offence and to delay the start of the system so that sufficient security arrangements can be implemented. "At present the worst that can happen to an employee who breaches confidential information is dismissal," Mr Macara said. The network, due to go online this year, will give

doctors immediate access by computer to healthcare information. But the BMA fears the system will be a rich vein for hackers.

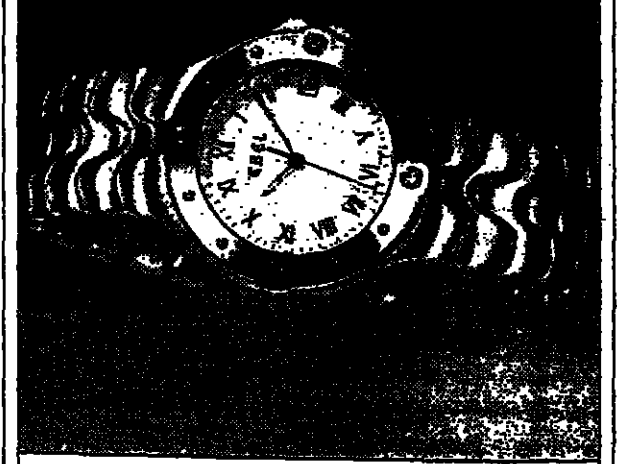
Dr Mac Armstrong, BMA secretary, said: "Our technical experts have looked at the security systems being proposed and we do not believe they are adequate. We believe that nothing will be lost in delaying implementation while ensuring a more watertight system."

A Department of Health spokeswoman said: "No system can be entirely fail-safe but the measures that we are proposing to implement will minimise the risk of any unauthorised person being able to violate the system." The King's Fund, which published an influential report on the state of London's health service in 1992, has said it is to re-examine the capital's health care, focusing on primary care, mental health, hospital bed shortages and the elderly.

TIMELESS

EBEL

les architectes du temps



SPORTWAVE

The Ebel Sportwave is a precision-made Swiss timepiece in stainless steel with a matt or polished steel bezel, in steel or colour. Water-resistant to 50 metres with a quartz movement, matching steel bracelet and date window, the watch also carries a five year guarantee. Available from the Watch Department on the Ground Floor at Harrods.

Harrods

Harrods Knightsbridge, London SW1 7TL. Tel 0171 736 1234

Fly the world fr

the change to win

2000 Air Miles

per year for 20 yrs

for full details in

the Times on Mon

THE TIM

School heads urged to put new teachers on year's probation

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

SCHOOLS should be given the power to weed out incompetent teachers as the end of their first year in the profession, a head teachers' leader said yesterday.

The Government abolished the probationary year for new teachers in 1992 as part of its reform of training. But David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said a check was needed to ensure that standard staff did not slip through.

Under the old system, local authorities were responsible for vetting new staff at the end of their first year of teaching. Ministers regarded the scheme as ineffective and replaced it with a flexible induction period.

In his address to the association's annual conference in Harrogate, Mr Hart said schools should consider introducing their own probationary period. The switch would give heads and governors the

right to decide if newly qualified teachers could make the grade.

Mr Hart said many authorities were not putting new teachers on temporary contracts, but Solihull, in the West Midlands, was negotiating to reintroduce a probationary year. "If we are serious about raising standards, I think all schools should be encouraged to do the same."

Mr Hart added: "At a time when we were desperate for teachers, some less than satisfactory teachers did have their probationary periods passed."

He also said that the pressures on schools were now such that only one teacher in five remained on grounds of age. The number of ill-health retirements had doubled to 2,000 in a year, and a quarter were head teachers.

Mr Hart said: "These statistics cannot be explained away, as some commentators seek to do. When four out of five heads are opting for early

retirement, serious questions have to be asked about whether we can afford such a drain of experienced talent from our schools."

Few heads stayed on at school beyond the age of 55, Mr Hart said. Those in small schools were particularly hard-pressed, as many had to cope with a full teaching week as well as onerous administrative duties.

A Tory MP urged opposition leaders yesterday to block a council's plans to scrap free transport for grammar school pupils.

Simon Burns, MP for Chelmsford, appealed to Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown to persuade Essex County Council, which is run by a Labour-Liberal Democrat coalition, to withdraw its controversial proposals.

Parents will have to find up to £1,000 a year in travelling costs under the plan to charge new pupils for transport next year.



Sergeant Evans: "a calming influence who performs well in stressful situations"

Gardner arrest sergeant 'had a brilliant future'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN detective was on course for a brilliant police career until she was accused of killing the Jamaican illegal immigrant Joy Gardner, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

Detective Sergeant Linda Evans sat in tears in the dock with her head in her hands as the court heard of a string of commendations during her 15-year career with the Metropolitan Police. Sergeant Evans, 41, is accused with two colleagues of the manslaughter of Mrs Gardner, 40, during an attempt to deport her. The prosecution alleges that Mrs Gardner suffocated after 13ft of adhesive tape was wrapped around her head during a violent struggle at her home in Hornsey, north London.

Sergeant Evans was attached for the day to Scotland Yard's Deportation Squad to work with detective constables Colin Whitby, 48, and John Burrell, 43. All three deny manslaughter. Under cross-examination by Andrew Trollope, QC, for the defence, an Essex police officer who was

called in to investigate Mrs Gardner's death detailed Sergeant Evans's career.

Detective Sergeant Terry Cook said that Sergeant Evans, a graduate in education from Warwick University, had worked on the anti-terrorist squad where in 1987 she was commended for her "dedication and professionalism" by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner. Her work was also praised by Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, when she worked as a barrister.

In 1986 a Chief Superintendent wrote: "She is a superb officer who has ability to obtain the highest rank." In 1990 her assessment read: "She is highly professional and sensitive to situations and people. She considers problems before taking action. She is helpful, a calming influence and performs well in stressful situations."

The court was told that Constable Whitby and Constable Burrell also had exemplary career records. The trial continues today.

Education charity hit by closure

By RUTH GARDNER

THE failure of a girls' boarding school has cost the Church of England's leading education charity £50,000, nearly a fifth of its reserves.

St Audrie's School in West Quantoxhead, Somerset, founded in 1924 to provide an Anglican education for the daughters of colonial and military officers, closed in 1991 because it could not attract boarders.

The National Society, which promotes education "in accordance with principles of the Church of England", was custodian trustee of the school, run by a board of governors. The society, founded in 1881 and chiefly responsible for setting up Britain's church schools, has dipped into its £5-million reserves for the first time to pay the bills.

The losses, reported in today's *Church Times*, arise from a £300,000 loan to the governors in 1988, £180,000 in redundancy payments and other closure costs, and £250,000 for heating and maintenance. The listed Victorian-Gothic building costs the society £50,000 a year and is difficult to sell because about 15 similar West Country institutions are available.

Classroom ban on cannabis T-shirts

By JOHN O'LEARY

HEAD teachers called yesterday for a ban on T-shirts promoting cannabis, which are being worn to school by children as young as five.

"Mr Spiffy" clothes, are sold at markets and car-boot sales. T-shirts, jeans and jackets feature a cartoon character holding a cannabis reefer. The National Association of Head Teachers' annual conference voted unanimously for the sale and distribution of clothing with drug-related emblems to be outlawed. They urged colleagues to rid their schools of the products.

Michael Garratt, of Thorpe St William County Primary School, near Norwich, said the T-shirts were a method of "educating" children. "We would be opposed to them if they were encouraging children to smoke cannabis or use drugs, let alone joints. Some schools in Norfolk had banned the clothes. Mr Garratt said: "We have found that parents are understanding. We have requested not to dress their children in such provocative T-shirts."

The clothes are available online, via e-mail, and schools have been unable to locate the manufacturers.

THE SPECIAL EDITION 100NX PACIFIC. FROM ONLY £11,475*



- 16 valve fuel injected engine ✓
- T-bar glass roof ✓
- Power steering & central door locking ✓
- Security coded stereo radio/cassette ✓
- Alloy wheels ✓
- Electric windows & door mirrors ✓

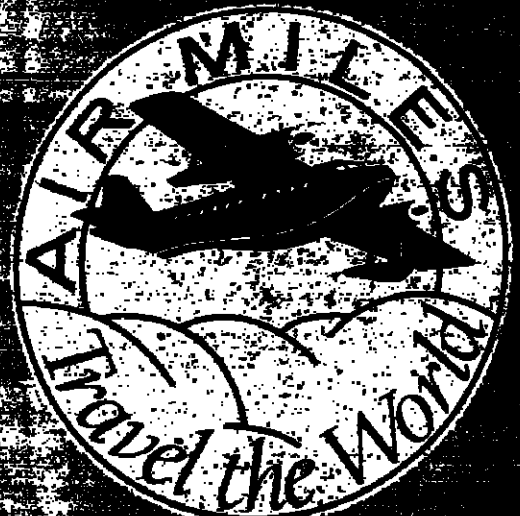


When it's hot in the city, don't hit the roof, just take it off, because the special edition Nissan 100NX Pacific with its easily removeable 'T' bar roof is now available from only £11,475*. It's packed with features: power steering, electric windows - even alloy wheels. And added to the reassurance of Nissan's free 3 year/60,000 mile manufacturer's warranty, you'll find some great finance options now available. For more information please call 0345 66 99 66.

NISSAN

YOU CAN WITH A NISSAN

*PRICE EXCLUDES DELIVERY PACKAGE (£449) AND ROAD FUND LICENCE. PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. METALLIC PAINT SHOWN OPTIONAL EXTRA (£250). MODELS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.



Spain (annual catch 17,000 tonnes) and Britain (500 tonnes) square up for round two of tuna war

Net attack sparks fears of stormy season ahead

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FISHERMEN appealed yesterday for extra Royal Navy patrols as fears rose of a renewed tuna war with Spain. Michael Jack, the Fisheries Minister, promised "full protection".

The fishermen's call came after a Cornish skipper reported that his nets had been deliberately severed by a Spanish trawler that had ignored warnings to stay clear.

The incident happened a week ago, about 100 miles southwest of Land's End, but came to light only yesterday, when the British vessel involved, the *Golden Bells II*, returned to her home port of Newlyn. The skipper, Mike Faulkner, said that part of an eight-mile gill net anchored to the seabed, which he had been using for hake, had been torn away by a Spanish vessel towing a trawl net.

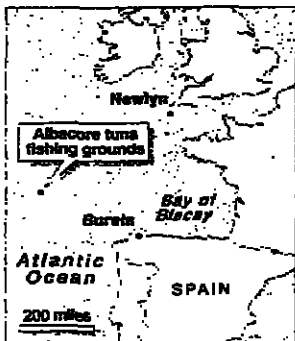
Fishermen said they feared the incident could be a prelude to worse clashes when the tuna fishing season starts later this month in the northeast Atlantic. Spanish trawlers are angry because Cornish fishermen supported Canada in the recent dispute over

halibut off Newfoundland. Mike Townsend, chief executive of the Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation, said: "We are taking this clash very seriously. It undermines our confidence in our Government's ability to protect us. If we are not safe in our waters, where are we safe?"

Michael Jack, the Fisheries Minister, said: "Any conflict at sea is of concern, and I have called for a full report on the incident. I have assured Mr Townsend that we have the resources available to give our fishermen full protection when the tuna season starts."

"A Royal Navy fisheries protection vessel will be permanently on station when the first of our tuna boats go out in a week or two. I will also be raising the matter with Luis Atienza, the Spanish Fisheries Minister, when he visits London later this month."

Mr Jack said there was little the Royal Navy could have done to prevent last week's incident because of the delay in reporting it. "The incident was not reported until 12 hours after it occurred, when HMS *Orkney* made a routine



inspection of Mr Faulkner's boat. Once the tuna fishing season starts, the situation will be quite different because a Royal Navy patrol vessel will be given the specific task of keeping an eye on the fishery. There will also be aerial surveillance."

In an unprecedented move, the European Commission in Brussels will this year have its own chartered vessel patrolling the tuna fishing grounds. Commission and national fisheries inspectors will be on board to see fair play.

The EC boat, the *Northern Horizon*, sailed from Hull yesterday. The European Fisheries Commissioner, Emma Bonino, is expected to be flown

out to the vessel later this month to witness the monitoring of tuna fishing.

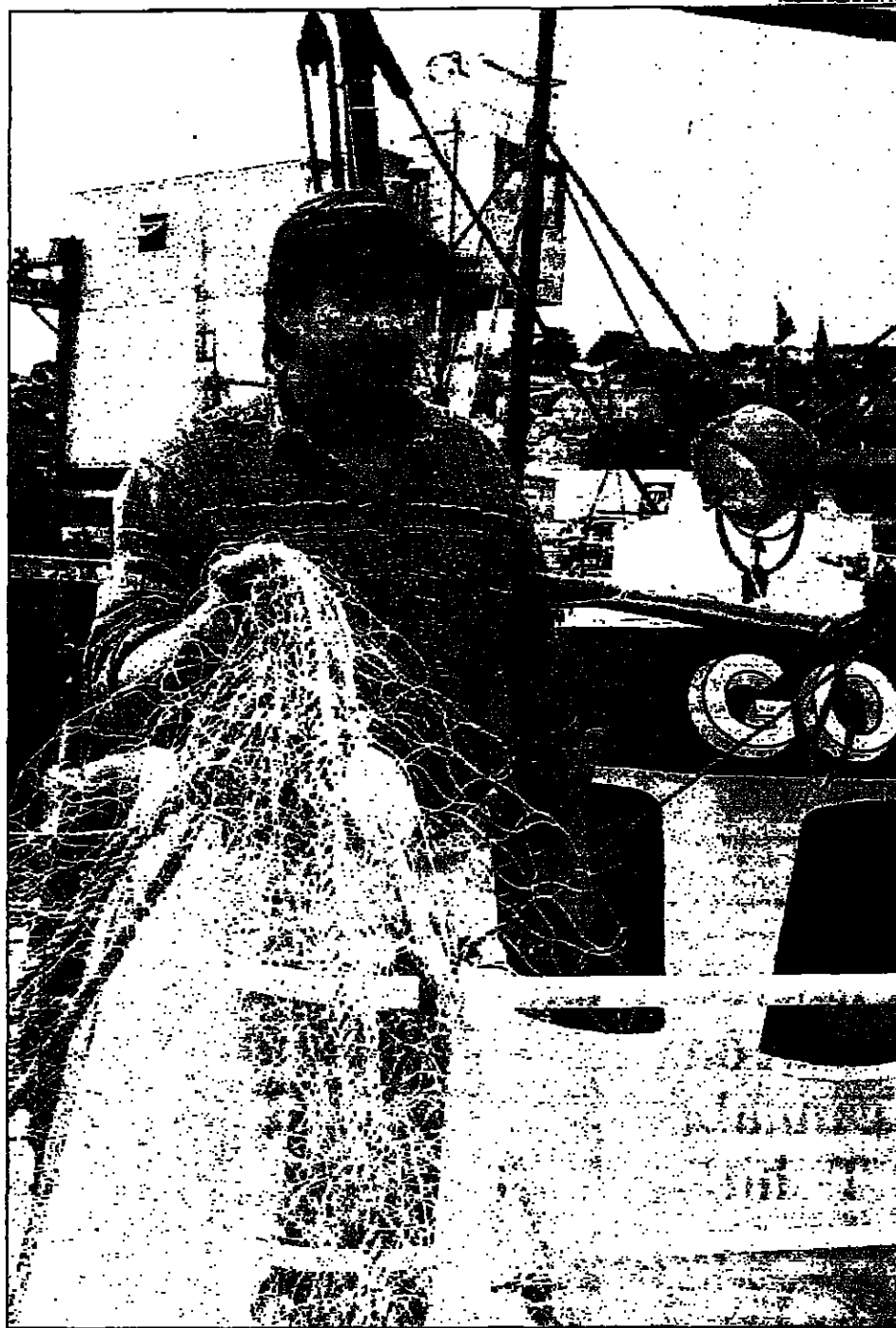
Mr Faulkner said the clash with the Spanish vessel happened about 3am on Thursday of last week. "One of my crew who was on watch told me there was a trawler heading for us. Another member of the crew, who speaks some Spanish, got in touch with the skipper exactly where our nets were and to keep clear of them, but he simply ignored us and sailed straight through."

"I have no doubt it was deliberate. The skipper claimed he could not understand, saying 'No comprendo', but earlier we had no difficulty communicating with Spanish long-liners who had been fishing near by."

"We stayed with the Spanish boat for three hours trying to steer him away by getting between him and our gear, but he came so close that it was no longer safe."

Mr Faulkner said he had been too busy to report the incident when it happened but had mentioned it to the captain of HMS *Orkney*, a Royal Navy fisheries protection vessel which came alongside on a routine inspection about 12 hours later. He said he had been unable to identify the Spanish vessel.

"I will be sailing for the tuna fishing grounds 300 miles south of Land's End later this month," he said. "I only hope the Royal Navy will provide better protection there. Last week's incident has already cost me £1,000 in lost gear. I cannot afford to lose any more."



Mike Faulkner, who says his net was deliberately torn by a Spanish trawler

Spaniards say hook fishing is more humane

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

FOR once the Spanish, so often accused of illegal and unecological fishing methods, seem to have a genuine complaint against drift nets.

The ministry in Madrid points out that bilateral fishing talks between Spain and France have been established to tackle differences, but no such dialogue exists with Britain, which supported Canada in the Greenland halibut dispute off Newfoundland and has ignored Spain's request to stop money-laundering and drug-smuggling in Gibraltar.

Trawlers from Spain's four main tuna-fishing ports around the Bay of Biscay, from which 182 boats will be setting out this month at the start of the season, are

worried that there will be further sea clashes this summer.

"Drift nets must be eradicated," said José Roca, fishing master in Burela, at the southern entrance to the Bay of Biscay. "It is not compatible with hook-fishing. Nets snare all species, they die by drowning and those that get away are injured. Hooked tuna is the most ecological in the world. It is landed live, killed with one swift blow and tastes better than tuna that has been bruised and drowned."

Burela's 45 boats use the *currañon* system, with lines running from six to seven fathoms. Last year 3,000 tonnes of tuna were landed in Burela, 35 per cent of Spain's total catch, and 82 per cent was sold fresh. Spaniards eat seven times as much fish as the British.

In the Basque port of Bermeo, where 70 boats use the *caeca* method, deploying up to 16 lines with false bait, or the *cebo vivo* method, using up to nine rods with live bait, Aurelio Bilbao, fishing master of the local brotherhood or *cofrades*, said: "It's going to be just like last year. If biologists had their say, drift nets would be banned tomorrow, but the issue is political. A British government would not have the guts to ban them, lay up boats and put fishermen out of work."

Esteban Olaizola, fishing master in Fuenterrabia, said: "If Brussels is incapable of solving the problem, we have to do something ourselves."

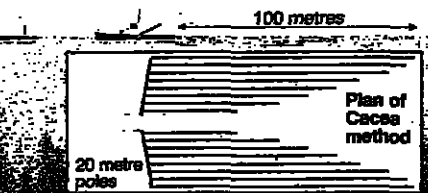
BRITISH TUNA DRIFT NET

Overall length of netting 2.5 km



SPANISH TUNA FISHING BY LINE

Caeca method (shown below) uses 2 poles and 15-16 lines with false bait. Currañon uses 6-7 fished poles with lines and Cebo Vivo uses hand-held rods and live bait



'I invested £30,000 in a net. I have no option but to go out again'

CORNISH fishermen are determined not to be driven off the albacore tuna fishing grounds in the northeast Atlantic by a repeat of last year's attacks by Spanish trawlers (Michael Hornsby writes).

Up to a dozen boats from Newlyn and other ports are expected to fish for tuna this year, with the first vessels setting out on the 500-mile trip to the fishery in about

two weeks' time. Mike Faulkner, skipper of the 54ft trawler *Golden Bells II*, said: "I invested £30,000 last year in the purchase of a drift net for tuna fishing and have no option but to go out again this year despite the trouble being threatened by the Spanish."

The use of drift nets, which can legally be up to 2.5km long and hang like a curtain in the water, is the main

BRITISH FLEET

cause of dispute between the Spanish and other European trawlers, including the French, the Portuguese and the Irish.

Most Spanish boats use traditional methods in which baited hooks are trailed from lines on long poles. The Spanish say their boats catch only a few score tuna in this

way but drift nets indiscriminately ensnare thousands of fish, including dolphins.

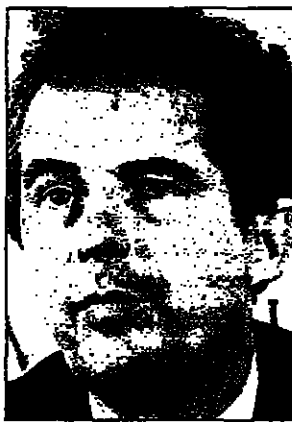
Mr Faulkner, like other Cornish fishermen, rejects the Spanish claims. "All the reports you read about us wiping out the tuna stocks are a load of rubbish. There are plenty of the fish. The same goes for the scare stories

about dolphins. I caught exactly two dolphins last year.

"For us the tuna season lasts only three months, from the end of June through to early September, when the fish come far enough north to be within range. Tuna are not easy to find. One day last year we caught just 12. On our best day we caught 900."

It will take Mr Faulkner two-and-a-half days to reach the tuna grounds, which lie outside any national territorial limit. The trip is worthwhile because the tuna, unlike other fish caught closer to home inside European Union waters, are not subject to quotas.

"I only managed six trips last year, staying about ten days on the fishing ground," Mr Faulkner said. "I need to catch about 2,000 fish per trip to make the exercise viable. At reasonable prices a catch of that size is worth around £20,000, which leaves me with



Waldegrave: meeting

£5,000 after paying for fuel and wages for my four crew.

"The Spanish are not content just to drive us out of the tuna fishery. Up to now most of our tuna has been exported to Spain. But the Spanish fishermen are threatening to burn down the factories of Spanish processors who buy

our catches. So this year I shall be trying to find a market in France."

Cornish boats began fishing for tuna five years ago. Last year their total catch was 570 tonnes, compared with an estimated 17,000 tonnes caught by more than 500 Spanish boats.

Mike Townsend, chief executive of the Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation, says the tuna fishery is vital because it takes pressure off other heavily fished stocks. "Last year about 100 extra tonnes of hake was released for other Cornish boats to catch, which the tuna boats would have caught had they stayed in home waters."

William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, and Michael Jack, the Fisheries Minister, will meet Luis Atienza, the Spanish Fisheries Minister, in London later this month to discuss measures to avoid clashes.

Now from only £30.62* a month. The world's best aerobic exercisers.

Thanks to our new Twelve Part Payment Plan.

NordicTrack in-home exercisers are now more affordable than ever before. You can get started on a lifetime of health and fitness from as little as £30.62* a month!

Divide the total cost of your total-body exerciser - including delivery - into 12 payments. It's the most affordable way to achieve total-body fitness with NordicTrack.

Total-body conditioning

Bikes, treadmills and step machines only work the legs, but a NordicTrack exerciser works all your major muscle groups at once. It firms and trims your stomach, waist, back, chest, shoulders and arms. And tones up your hips, buttocks, thighs and calves. Helping you to become leaner and firmer all over.

Improved health and fitness

Regular NordicTrack workouts can help strengthen your heart and lungs. You can also reduce your cholesterol level. Lower your blood pressure. Increase your energy and decrease stress.



So you feel full of life and vitality. And all in just 20 minutes, three times a week.

Total reliability

NordicTrack exercisers have a smooth, non-jarring motion. This avoids any undue stress on your knees, back and hips. And each exerciser comes with a lifetime of advice and encouragement from our fitness consultants. It's like having your own personal trainer.

From America's fitness leaders

Three million Americans already keep fit with NordicTrack. Now it's your turn. Our Twelve Part Payment Plan makes it easier than ever before. Just call us, or return the coupon below for a free brochure and video.

FINANCE EXAMPLE	
*ProClassic 300	
Purchase price	£299.00
Delivery	£35.00
Total	£334.00
12 monthly payments	£28.22
Interest charge	£33.45
Total to pay	£317.45

APR 19.5%

0800 616179

Please quote ref.no. DT 1F5

Tell me more about the world's best aerobic exercisers and how I can spread the cost with 12 easy payments. Please send me my free video ☐ and brochure ☐ without obligation.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Address

Postcode

Tel (Day)

Country

(Eves)

Send to: NordicTrack (U.K.) Ltd., Dept. DT 1F5, Freepost CV 2617, Warwick CV34 6BR. No stamp is required. Alternatively you can fax us on 01926 470 811.

NordicTrack

THE WORLD'S BEST AEROBIC EXERCISERS

Pot plants increase wellbeing at work

BY NICK NUTTALL

EMPLOYEES in buildings full of potted plants and trees are happier, healthier and harder-working than others, researchers said yesterday.

Jan Stiles, of Oxford Brookes University, said there was evidence that greenery exerted a calming, "humanising" effect. It was likely that office and house plants inspired primordial feelings of well-being and security.

Other research, also presented yesterday, indicates that some plants can cut high-frequency noise such as the shrill of office colleagues, and filter out airborne chemicals of the kind linked with so-called sick-building syndrome.

Ms Stiles: "Evolution has equipped us to select environments which are beneficial to us... a well-shaped tree means there is a good water supply below. Historically, we also used trees for shelter, food and building materials." She said there was also evidence that wavelengths of the colour green focused directly on the retina and so were less distracting and more soothing than other colours.

Mike Lofthian, of Rentokil environmental services, said there was also evidence from Reading University and the United States that house plants kept people alert by boosting oxygen levels, cooling the air and increasing moisture.

Peter Costa, of the South Bank University, said species such as the weeping fig, peace lily and Kentia palm appeared to cut noise levels.

Car insurance premium ~~£310~~ **£261**

Cut car insurance costs without cutting cover.

Call FREE quoting: PT1

0800 10.9.8.7.6

Any age, any car, anywhere.

One call and you could cut your car insurance costs without cutting your quality of cover

- Our special arrangements with leading insurers makes this possible
- Payment options* include monthly direct debit
- Part of one of Britain's oldest insurance groups.

*written details on request.

PremiumSearch

Cutting costs, not cover

Only available in England, Scotland and Wales

lawyer
and
country b

em failure
electronic ta

Year 10

SELFIDGES

SEARS ST

Survey exposes Dickensian Bar

City lawyers boycott 'slow and arrogant' country barristers

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SOLICITORS throughout England and Wales are refusing to send important work to the provincial Bar because its barristers are allegedly stuck in a "Dickensian" past: slow, arrogant, inefficient and lacking in commercial expertise.

The damning picture of standards at the regional Bar is based on the views of solicitors from big firms in Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester. The survey by Legal Business finds that, with one or two exceptions, solicitors have little faith in regional barristers when it comes to big commercial cases, and prefer to send their work to London.

Only the Liverpool Bar enjoyed a favourable reception from solicitors. The view of the rest was summed up by Tony Holland, senior partner of Foot & Bowden at Plymouth, who said: "I don't think there's a commercial barrister we'd use. They don't know what the public wants. The Bristol bar has not changed at all and I don't think it will. They call themselves 'circuiters' and it's like the 1914-18 war."

A solicitor who heads the litigation department at a Cardiff firm said: "For a serious commercial matter, I would always go to London."

The main criticism of the (mostly anonymous) solicitors interviewed was that barristers in the regions, while able, lacked specialist experience to keep pace with the needs of commercial law firms. One said: "There are about 200 barristers at the Bristol bar.

But personally I trust just three of them with serious commercial instructions."

A handful of names were regularly cited as "stars" who were head and shoulders above the rest, including Stephen Davies in Bristol, John Randall in Birmingham, Andrew Edis at Liverpool and Philip Raynor in Manchester. Some chambers were also singled out for their efforts to modernise: 9 Park Place in Cardiff, and 5 Fountain Court in Birmingham. But many others were criticised by solicitors as being slow and "back in Dickensian times", with no modern technology or system of chambers' management.

A Cardiff solicitor said: "They [local barristers] are slow in turning the papers around. They'll say 'it has improved, but it's still a minimum of ten days [for a pleading]. They've chopped

back from the ridiculous three-to-six months but it's still not good enough." Another solicitor complained that chambers in Birmingham were not always able to respond quickly by fax or phone; one in Manchester said he wished they could deliver their work on disk, saving the need for documents to be copy-typed.

A Cardiff litigator complained that chambers would ask what a "telecon" was (a conference between solicitor and barrister and client held over the telephone). "It horrifies them. What they want is papers properly bound up in pink tape."

The solicitors also said that the barristers were uncompetitive: their fees were as high, or nearly as high, as chambers in London.

Peter Goldsmith, QC, chairman of the Bar, said: "There are undoubtedly sets in the region which are very forward looking and very well organised. This is likely to increase as the use of specialist courts grows, such as the very successful commercial court in Manchester."

He added that there was a trend towards specialisation outside London and while some chambers had responded, clearly "solicitors think some members of the Bar have not gone far enough."

There were a number of Bar initiatives, he added, which would help, including extending chambers' management training courses outside London.



Goldsmith: initiatives

System failure delays trials of electronic tags on offenders

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Office has postponed an experiment to put electronic tags on offenders after it was discovered, days before the trials were to begin, that the equipment did not work.

Sources at the Home Office confirmed yesterday that a test in Manchester, where one of the pilot schemes was due to start next week, showed the alarm did not work when an offender breached the system. The trials, to include courts in Reading and Norfolk, will now not begin until July.

Courts were recently given powers to impose curfews; the tags would allow them to be

enforced. The offenders wear the tag, the size of a large watch, all the time. If they go out or tamper with the tag, a receiver attached to the telephone alerts a monitoring system. This week an official found a tag failed to set off a warning when he left a curfew zone.

The nine-month trials are being carried out by Securitor Custodial Services, using US equipment, and Geografix, which has developed its own equipment. Yesterday Securitor said its equipment needed "fine-tuning" for this country.

Leaders of the Probation Service say there is concern

over how the tags would work in a block of flats where several people might be wearing them, and the range of the curfew zone. Parts of an offender's garden might be beyond range, while a neighbouring flat could be outside the zone but not register as a breach.

During trials in Nottingham in 1989, the equipment then available did not work and offenders managed to remove or neutralise the tags. Mary Honeyball, of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, said yesterday that it had reservations about the tags. "This incident has done nothing to inspire confidence."

Church Enstone 14



Mr Reeve's listed cottage in Church Enstone

Burglary victim lays 'minefield'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BUSINESSMAN angered by a spate of burglaries in his Cotswold village plans to booby-trap his garden with make-believe land mines.

Joe Reeve, who runs a plastics factory, has sown 20 of the harmless firecracker devices in his 1½ acre garden at Church Enstone, near Chipping Norton, to frighten intruders after numerous burglaries in the Oxfordshire village.

Mr Reeve, 51, who lives in a 300-year-old Grade II listed cottage, said: "They will not hurt anyone. They'll simply let off a loud bang. I have every right to protect my property by all reasonable means. I'm a keen shotgun

enthusiast and read about the non-lethal mines in a magazine."

The crime situation in this village has become quite ludicrous. I've spent around £3,000 installing an infrared alarm system and cameras to video-record intruders, security lights and floodlighting and have even got an armour-plated shed to stop these people kicking their way in. The last straw came when they smashed into my BMW despite the £1,000 alarm and took a £1,200 radio."

He paid £100 for the mail-order devices after he saw them advertised in the gun magazine. He has been warned by police that he



Joe Reeve: "The crime situation in this village has become quite ludicrous"

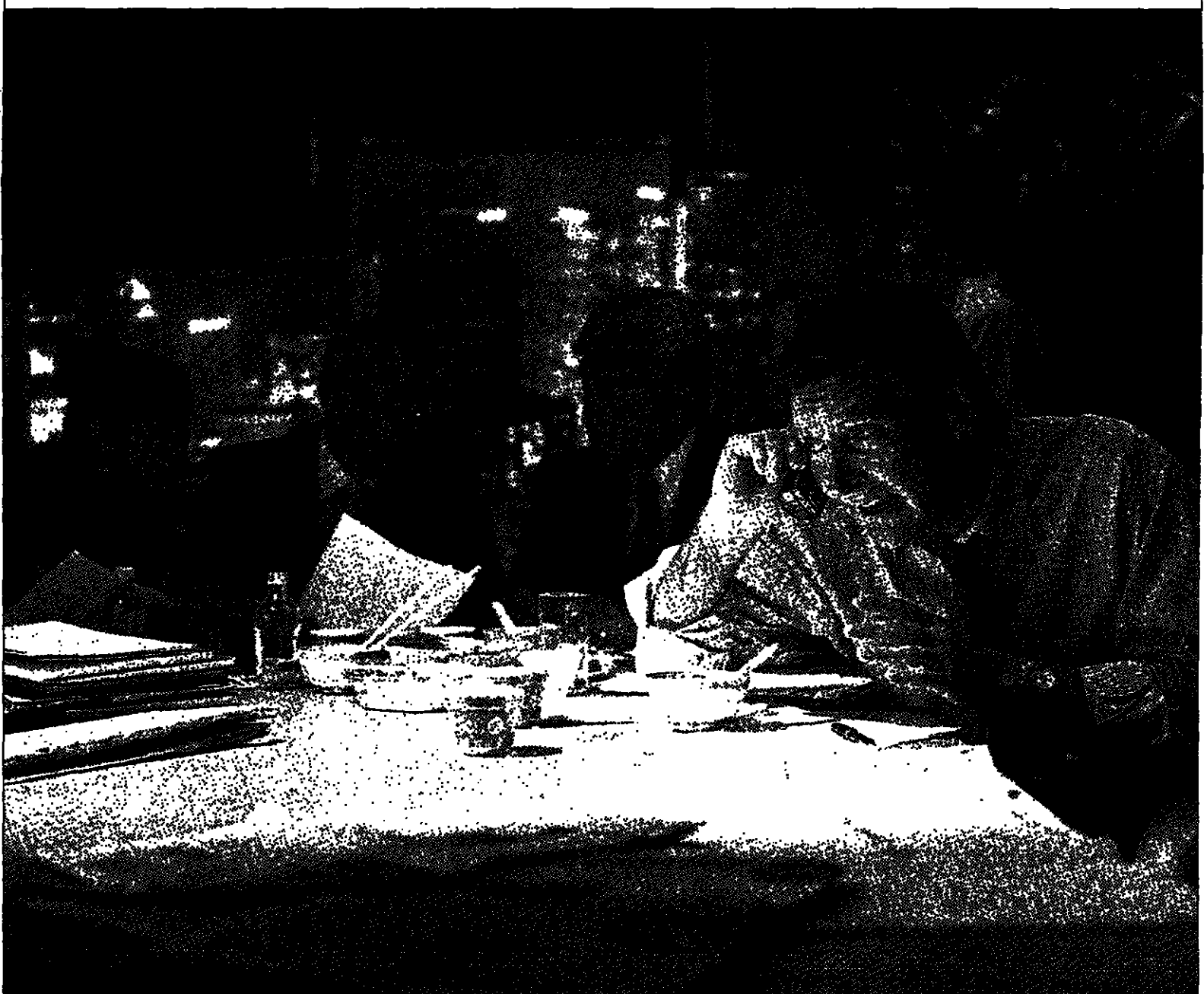
could face prosecution if anyone suffers injury from his booby traps. Sgt John Eades of Chipping Norton police said: "We can understand his frustration but he must be careful not to put himself in a position where he may injure someone."

Mr Reeve has put up posters in the local grocery

shop offering a £500 reward for information leading to a conviction in the latest incident. Villagers say there have been a hundred break-ins over the past 18 months, which they blame on criminals from outside the area. One victim in the village of 760 people was Suzanne Dando, the former Olympic

gymnast, who had several hundred pounds worth of jewellery stolen from her car. Mr Reeve's neighbours, Stephen and Anna Marham, lost a fax machine and a CD player in a break-in at the Cotswold stone home where they live with their four-year-old daughter Minnie.

"OF COURSE I LOVE YOU."



£1,800 for sacked prison organist

By ROBIN YOUNG

A PRISON organist sacked after censors read a letter written to her by a convicted sex offender accepted £1,800 compensation after the Home Office admitted that she had been unfairly dismissed.

Sheila Wright, who is married with two daughters, had worked in the chapel at Full Sutton maximum security prison near York for five years when a letter addressed to her was intercepted. "I was sacked because of innuendo," Mrs Wright, 41, of Huggate, Humberside, said after an industrial tribunal in Leeds heard that she had agreed to the cash settlement.

"In the letter the prisoner said he was looking forward to seeing me and he felt I was the only person he could talk to. He was lonely and might have seen me as a mother figure," she said. "They thought just because he was male and I was female we must be having an affair. It could have been misinterpreted, and it was. There was no romance."

Mrs Wright, who was paid £27 a week for playing the organ at three services in the prison, was dismissed in February last year. In a letter she was told it was done to protect her "from the undoubted emotional pressures of working in a maximum security prison".

She told the tribunal: "The money was never the point. I wanted a public statement that there was not any misconduct, some degree of an apology, and some admission that there had been a mistake on their part."

SearsCard

SELFRIDGES

With effect from 1st July 1995 the interest on the Gold Account will be increased as follows:

Payment by direct debit 24.9% APR (1.87% per month)

Payment by other methods 26.6% APR (1.99% per month)

OTHER SEARS STORES

With effect from 10th June 1995 SearsCard interest rates will be increased as follows:

Payment by direct debit 25.9% APR (1.94% per month)

Payment by other methods 29.8% APR (2.20% per month)

Registered Office: Sears Financial Services Ltd, Radcliffe House, Beaumont Court, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 2AA.



When you need to be discreet, you need the Ericsson GH337 mobile phone.

Its super-sensitive microphone can carry the softest whisper thousands of miles, without the person next to you hearing a thing.

But that's not all that keeps you connected. Wherever you're travelling, in the UK, Europe or even Hong Kong, the GH337 and its award-winning features will keep you in touch. From its highly receptive 360° aerial to its 1 hour and 40 minutes talk time or 18 hours standby. And it only weighs 193g.

For full details of Ericsson mobile phones, call 0171 814 5080 now and say those three little words ... send a brochure.

AUDIBLY BETTER. OBVIOUSLY ERICSSON.

ERICSSON



Dole attacks Hollywood for 'nightmare' violence

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

SENATOR Robert Dole, in the most blatant pursuit of Republican votes for his presidential bid, has launched an attack on the moral fabric of Hollywood, which he said had shrouded America in nightmares of depravity, violence and sex.

"A line has been crossed — not just of taste, but of human dignity and decency," said Mr Dole, the Republic front-runner, during a fund-raising address in the heart of Los Angeles. "It is crossed every time sexual violence is given a catchy tune. When teen suicide is set to an appealing beat. When Hollywood dream factories turn out nightmares of depravity."

The speech, courting conservatives concerned about the debasing of American culture, cited the films, *Natural Born Killers* and *True Romance*, as well as the music of Cannibal Corpse, Geto Boys and 2 Live Crew for their depictions of "mindless violence and loveless sex."

Mr Dole's criticism of the entertainment industry went on: "Movies and music do not make children into murderers. But a numbing exposure

to graphic violence and immorality does steal away innocence, smothering our instinct for outrage," said the Senate Majority Leader. "We have reached the point where our popular culture threatens to undermine our character as a nation."

Reserving his most biting criticism for Time Warner, the company which promotes "gangsta" rap music, Mr Dole asked of its executives: "You

both the reviews and lyrics before deciding what should be deemed suitable for American families."

The *Lion King*, *Santa Claus*, *The Flintstones* and *Forrest Gump* were chosen as morally sound, as was *True Lies*, a thriller in which Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jamie Lee Curtis demolish half the cast in a rain of machine-gun bullets. Mr Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis and Sylvester

Salvador, *Platoon* and *JFK*. "My intention in *Natural Born Killers* was to satirise, not glorify, violence."

Hollywood promoters said yesterday the box office had responded to the public's concern over violence. Jack Valenti, head of the Motion Picture Association of America, said most recent hits had been family films. "More and more we are tending towards all audience films that have civic values in them and less toward those that don't."

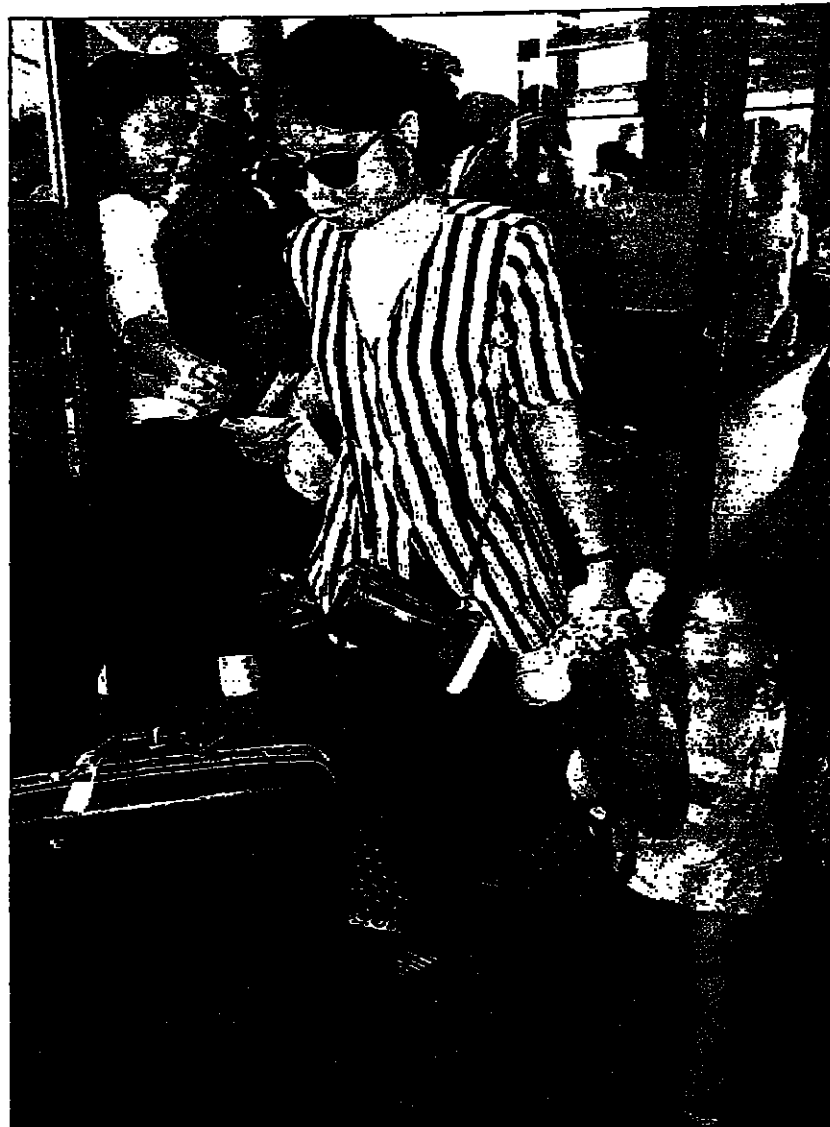
Wilson campaign: Hoping to inject new energy into his campaign for the Republican nomination, Governor Pete Wilson has written an open letter to the people of California stating that policies of affirmative action, offering special treatment to racial minorities, were based on "societal guilt" and threatened to eliminate the foundation of the American dream. Mr Wilson, a prominent crusader for the hiring of minorities when he was Mayor of San Diego more than 20 years ago, said he intended to cut affirmative programmes in the Golden State wherever the law allowed.

‘You have sold your souls, but must you debase our nation and threaten our children as well?’

have sold your souls, but must you debase our nation and threaten our children as well?" The record division at Time Warner came under fire several years ago for its production of the album *Cop Killer*, a violent rap against the police force by the black artist, Ice-T. Aides to Mr Dole admitted yesterday his condemnation had not come after either seeing the films or hearing the songs. He had, however, read

Stallone, the staunch Republican who star in an array of violent celluloid portrayals of good against evil, were notably absent from the speech which Oliver Stone, director of *Natural Born Killers*, later described as a "90s form of McCarthyism."

"I understand Senator Dole's need to appeal to the right-wing voters and the Republican party," said Mr Stone, whose credits include



Marife Torres Nichols and her daughter, Nicole Lynn, at Manila airport yesterday

Suspect's wife in Oklahoma blast flies back to Philippines

Cebu: The wife of an Oklahoma City bombing suspect yesterday returned home to the Philippines where her family plans to hide her from possible suspects.

Marife Torres Nichols, the wife of Terry Nichols, and her 21-month-old daughter, Nicole Lynn, flew to her parents' home in Cebu, 350 miles south of Manila, after arriving in Manila from San Francisco. Mr Nichols, who has been charged over the bombing that killed 168 people and injured more than 500 on April 19, met his wife through a mail-order bride agency in 1989. They were married in 1990.

Friends and relatives said that Mrs Nichols would be taken to an undisclosed location and hidden. They said that the family was afraid of attacks against her either by people sympathetic with or opposed to the bombing. At her family's home behind a timberyard, Eduardo Torres, Mrs Nichols's policeman father, said his daughter was sleeping and refused to allow reporters inside. Her mother, Fe Torres, said: "We cried and we embraced... I cried because at least my daughter came home safe. Despite what happened I'm happy that my daughter and my granddaughter are home with us."

On Wednesday, President Ramos had said that the United States would allow Mrs Nichols, who is two months pregnant, to return home "shortly". He noted that Mrs Nichols, who had been held under the FBI's protective custody at a motel, was not a suspect and had been very co-operative with American detectives. (Reuters)

boy four
live in
bble o
ake toy

FUEL INJECTION WITHOUT THE CASH INJECTION.

This summer the fully equipped Escort 1.6i 16V LX* and the Escort 1.8 Diesel LX* cost the same as the equivalent Escort 1.4 LX*

The extra doesn't cost extra.

There's a choice of 3 door, 5 door or estate with prices starting at £12,045 on the road†



The Escort. It's got what it takes.
Including one year's free insurance* when you buy before August 31st.

*Maximum retail prices. Applies only to new Escort LXs registered between 01/06/95 and 31/08/95.
†Free insurance subject to status, availability and conditions. †On the road costs include delivery to dealer, 12 months road fund licence, and estimated costs of fuel and number plates.

Canada Indians lay siege to ranch

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

INDIANS wearing warpaint have surrounded cowboys at the largest ranch in British Columbia as a tense stand-off over fishing rights heads into its sixth day.

About 250 members of the Upper Nicola band have barricaded the four roads leading into the Douglas Lake Ranch near Kelowna, east of Vancouver. The Indians are demanding the right to use gill nets to fish trout on two lakes, Stoney Lake and Minnie Lake, on the property.

The ranch, set up in 1884, belongs to the wealthy Woodward family. It employs 20 cowboys, 20 farmers, has 250 horses, 14,000 head of cattle and covers 494,200 acres. Kip Woodward says the lakes belong to them and nets destroy stocks: anglers can only catch one fish a day with a line but an Indian with a net can scoop up hundreds of pounds of trout. The Indians say they have a historic right to fish there. A five-year agreement allowing them to use nets expired last year.

Yesterday there were about 200 Indians manning the blockades, wearing native costumes, sunglasses, beating buckskin drums and chanting, "This is Indian country."

The Woodwards have obtained a court order ordering the Indians to remove the blockades, but the Mounties have been hesitant to ride to the rescue of the cowboys.

'Happy dwarfs' were first Fijians

FROM REUTER IN SUVA

Fiji was populated by a race of happy, mountain-dwelling dwarfs before the arrival of the Melanesians, generally regarded as the South Pacific nation's first settlers, according to a Fijian researcher.

After 34 years of research, Aminio Qalovaki is claiming that the Negroid tribes "always lived in Fiji".

"They were the true natives and lived in caves and survived on wild fruits, birds and reptiles," he said in the islands' *Daily Post* newspaper yesterday.

When the Melanesians arrived from Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands about 3,500 years ago, they assimilated easily with the dwarfs. "Inter-marriage between the two races became a natural and normal process," Mr Qalovaki, a former government geologist and researcher, said. "It was the beginning of a new generation from which sprang today's indigenous Fijians."

He said that although there were no pure-bred dwarf descendants left, their features were still evident in some Fijian families. "Some grow to only four feet, four inches when they become adults."

Mr Qalovaki's theory was received with scepticism. Christine Burke, archaeologist at the Fiji Museum in Suva, said there was no evidence that Fiji was inhabited before the Melanesians.

Mother fights law blaming parents

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

A CRACKDOWN on juvenile crime in Oregon is being attacked by a mother ordered to attend "parenting classes" because her son was caught stealing a bottle of aftershave from a shop.

Taking a lonely stand against a new law that makes parents responsible for their children's crimes, Anita Beck has sued the municipality of Silverton (population 6,200), claiming that to be punished for somebody else's crime violates the Constitution.

Oregon toughened its stance on delinquency last week when the state passed a law based on Silverton's Parental Responsibility ordinance, one of the sternest of its kind. It makes parents of under-age criminals liable to fines of up to \$1,000 (£633) or compulsory courses in parenting or coping with substance abuse. Laws making parents punishable for their children's offences exist in more than 20 states, but Oregon is the first to waive the requirement that parents should first be proved negligent.

"What Oregon has done is hold a parent responsible for a child's offence no matter how closely the child might have been supervised," Professor Leslie Harris, of the University of Oregon, said, adding: "There is a big legal debate on whether you can

punish someone simply for being a parent."

Mrs Beck believes such a notion smacks of Big Brother parenting and threatens to undermine the efforts of well meaning parents as well as holding negligent ones accountable. Her case, backed by the American Civil Liberties Union, may derail the Silverton ordinance while the state law based on it could be vetoed by John Kitzhaber, the Governor and a Democrat.

Other Silverton parents, worried by a sharp rise in juvenile crime last year, support their new ordinance or accept it with resignation. "My son was caught with a cigarette in his mouth," a father summoned to the local court was quoted as saying. "I guess that makes me guilty."

MOTOR INSURANCE GET THE CHEAPEST QUOTE

Be sure - call **Telesure** 081-605 9088

oilspoil Br
is an L U fr

new chance
new 400 1

TO

Baby found alive in rubble of quake town

FROM PHILIPPA FLETCHER IN NEFTYGOR'SK

RESCUE teams yesterday pulled out more people, including a three-month-old girl, after four days beneath the rubble of this earthquake-devastated town in Russia's Far East.

Authorities said that without water, those trapped in the ruins of Neftegorsk, on Sakhalin island, would not be able to last longer than five more days. "We will continue to look for survivors for the next five days but then the water runs out," Sergei Sholgu, the Emergency Minister, said.

Hampering rescue efforts, involving search dogs, brought out 30 corpses from the rubble as well as six people — three of them children, showing signs of life. Some of the latest bodies recovered were those of teenage students who were crushed in a discotheque.

Officials were heartened by the discovery of the baby, Vladimir Shapoval, the Deputy Governor of Sakhalin, said the unnamed girl was "perfectly fine". Rescuers had also worked more than 24 hours to extricate Anya, an eight-year-old girl, authorities said.

Russian newspapers published details of another survivor, Aleri Kazanov, 11. For 86 hours, he had remained pinned down in the rubble by the body of his dead father who had thrown himself across the boy to save him. The official death toll rose to 620. Officials expect it to reach about 2,000.

Rescuers continued to work around the clock amid the wreckage of multistorey buildings that collapsed like houses of cards when the tremor struck the oil town last Sunday.

The Interfax news agency said Sakhalin's prosecutor had formally initiated criminal proceedings in connection with the tragedy. It said he was taking action under Article 251 of the criminal code, which deals with infringement of building regulations.

Angry survivors say the blocks of flats should never have been constructed in a seismic zone. But Mr Sholgu has said the housing design fault was not deliberate, arguing that the blocks were built in the 1960s when Sakhalin was not considered an earthquake zone.

In a poignant moment just before dawn yesterday, a crane lifted the concrete slabs that had fallen on the discotheque, crushing about 40 teenage students. They were dressed in their party clothes, carefully arranged hairstyles still intact. One mother, on seeing the corpse of her son, cried out: "Son, my son, you were only 17."

President Yeltsin injected a controversial note into the tragic aftermath when he said that Russia had to be cautious over offers of aid from Japan — close to Sakhalin — because they might carry a political price-tag. Mr Yeltsin, probably to appease a powerful nationalist lobby ahead of parliamentary elections this year, suggested on Wednesday that Tokyo wanted to gain the upper hand in a territorial dispute with Moscow over the Kurile Islands.

Tokyo expressed puzzlement over his statement yesterday. "We can't understand how the President could have made such remarks about the sincere co-operative efforts of a neighbouring country," Kono Igarashi, a Japanese government spokesman, said.

Oleg Soskovets, Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister, had been quoted by Tass as saying that Moscow hoped for co-operation with Japan over medical supplies. (Reuters)



Neftegorsk rescuers lift Volodya Bessalenko, five, to safety. She was buried for four days

Russian 'hell' holds out promise of oil paradise

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN YUZHNO-SAKHALINSK

SEEN from the air, this distant Russian Pacific island, with its rugged coastline, snow-capped mountains and untamed beauty looks like an unspoiled jewel in a country where development has damaged so much of the environment.

Under-populated and remote, the shark-shaped Sakhalin has rarely been welcoming to its human inhabitants since the first Russian fort was established nearly 150 years ago by a young naval officer. Since then the territory has become a byword in Russia for hardship and misery, after the Tsar turned it into a penal colony, creating a cheap means of exploiting the island's rich natural resources. Chelkhov summed up how many Russians regarded Sakhalin when he visited the island in 1890, and declared it to be a "hell", which would be completely deserted if its population of exiles were not prevented from leaving.

As the world discovered this week when a powerful earthquake struck Sakhalin's northern tip at the oil town of Neftegorsk, killing an estimated 2,000 people, life has not improved much. Workers still live in squalid and potentially lethal accommodation, there is a long and bitter winter and, like many distant areas of Russia, the region is suffering economic hardships and a soaring crime rate.

"If I could get out I would go to St Petersburg," said one teenager, who added that many friends were planning to leave rather than join the swelling ranks of unemployed.

Although a prosperous community living off oil wealth is still only a dream, some hints of what may lie ahead have already appeared. The representative of Shell has built the island's first mansion — a ranch-style home imported by containers and constructed by New Zealand workmen on the outskirts of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. The city also boasts its first luxury hotel, a Japanese enterprise which charges £150 a night for a room, aimed at businessmen attracted by the prospect of an oil boom.

What is not clear, however, is when the oil will start to flow. Engineers believe they are three years away from pumping oil, not to mention the considerable bureaucratic obstacles from Moscow, including planned potentially restrictive tax legislation for foreign oil companies.



'Spoilsport' Britain finds an EU friend

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN MESSINA

MINISTERS gather today in Messina, Sicily, to crank up the machinery for revamping the European Union.

Only 18 months on from the full ratification of Maastricht, nobody is eager to start the battle for a new treaty. The plan for Europe's entry to the 21st century is expected to emerge from the inter-governmental conference that will begin next year after preparation by a "reflection group" of high-ranking officials that starts in Sicily. Britain's seat on the group is held by David Davis, the Euro-sceptical Foreign Office Minister of State.

The conference has been devised to commemorate the anniversary of the 1955 conference in the town of ministers of the six states of the Coal and Steel Community, which gave birth to the Common Market. Anthony Eden's Government scoffed at the scheme and refused to attend.

Britain's observer, an official from the Board of Trade, predicted disaster for the venture and Harold Macmillan, then Foreign Minister, noted: "The French will never go into the 'common market' — the German industrialists and economists equally dislike it." Macmillan later considered Britain's role should have been a huge miscalculation.

Forty years later in Messina, Britain is a member of the club and is promising a batch of initiatives, but for the other big members it is still considered very much the spoilsport.

Germany, France, and other states, though long inured to Britain's Euro-repugnance, are annoyed by John Major's fierce resistance to any extension of Union powers and his aim to seek "repatriation" of some already invested in Union institutions.

Britain is not, however, as isolated as it was in the run-up to Maastricht because realism has tempered the zeal that drove the federalists. Popular doubts and outright hostility towards Maastricht in many states have set the scene for a more sober approach.

Britain leads the minimalist camp, which regards conference as a 5,000-mile service for the Maastricht "car". The tune-up is supposed to make the Union operate more smoothly and handle the issue of enlargement to the East. This view is not shared by diehards such as Jacques Delors, who said that the Maastricht compromise had delivered "a Formula One car with the engine of a lawnmower".

Under its new Gaullist President, however, France is on the defensive. President Chirac has proclaimed a deep commitment to monetary union and the "Franco-German couple", but he shares much of Britain's thinking on the need to retain national sovereignty and clip the wings of the Commission and the European Parliament.

Leading article, page 19

FOR BIG VALUE B&Q IT!

FLYMO TURBO COMPACT 300
1250W, 15m cable.
£104 ONLY B&Q it!

FLYMO TURBO COMPACT 350
1300W, 20m cable.
£124 ONLY B&Q it!

GARDENA HOSE REEL 60
Complete watering system with 25m hose and accessories.
£29.99 ONLY B&Q it!

BLACK & DECKER 'REFLEX' TRIM 'N' EDGE TRIMMER
GL550C, 10ins cut, 300W.
£38 ONLY B&Q it!

BLACK & DECKER 'REFLEX' GL570C
10ins cut, 300W, telescopic handle to adjust the angle of trim.
£43

BLACK & DECKER 'REFLEX' GL580C
12ins cut, 340W.
£54

KÄRCHER PRESSURE WASHER 411
110 bar pressure. High pressure hose with trigger gun.
£129.99 ONLY B&Q it!

YARD KING 3.75HP PETROL ROTARY MOWER
£170 ONLY B&Q it!

OPENING HOURS Mon to Sat Most stores 8am - 8pm
Sunday Most stores in England & Wales 10am - 4pm (where permitted)
Scotland & Northern Ireland 9am - 6pm. (Ballymena closed)
Certain store hours can vary, please phone your nearest store to confirm

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST DAILY CHAIN - Freecall 0800 300 150 FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE
Stores shown are approximate. Offers subject to availability, please phone to check before travelling. Prices and offers applicable to B&Q Supercentres

THE TIMES

Your chance to win the new 400 Tourer

The Times offers you the chance to win the new Rover 400 Tourer worth £15,995.

Simply collect six tokens to enter our prize draw. You may enter as many times as you wish, but must attach your tokens to the official application form, which will be printed again on Saturday.

Post your entry to:
The Times Tourer Competition,
11 Whitefriar Street, London
EC8B 7NG. The competition closes June 2.

For further information on the Tourer call 045 186 186.

THE TIMES

Win a Rover 400 Tourer

TOKENS



chris m. k.

AND YOU



EASIER

TO DRIVE

AS

SO

AS

AS

AS

AS

AS

AS

AS

AS

AS

AS

Simon Glen
Sahara Handbook

Published by Roger Leavelle



LAND-ROVER

RANGE ROVER. LUXURY OFF-ROAD.

LAND ROVER, LODGE LANE, SOLIHULL, ENGLAND B92 8NW

British Quality Foundation

Britain maps out strategy for rapid reaction forces

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN was yesterday taking the lead in adapting the role of its soldiers in Bosnia-Herzegovina to form the bulk of two mobile reserve forces which will provide Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, the United Nations commander, with a more potent weapon with which to respond to Bosnian Serb attacks.

The first of the planned units, a reserve force which will consist of between 1,000 and 2,000 soldiers equipped with Warrior armoured infantry fighting vehicles, is being made up from British troops serving in central Bosnia which is relatively peaceful.

Responsibility for creating this force has been passed to Brigadier Andrew Pringle, the commander of British forces in Bosnia, based at Gorzija Vakuf. He will select the soldiers from BRITBAT 1, the battalion carrying out peace-keeping and humanitarian duties in Vitez, Gorzija Vakuf, Jelah and Zepce, and from CAVBAT, the cavalry battalion based at Zepce. Maglaj and Gorzija Vakuf.

As well as Warriors, the reserve force will have 12 105mm light guns which were sent to Bosnia as part of the British reinforcements. There will also be communications units, reconnaissance troops in Scimitar armoured vehicles

MOBILE RESERVE

and Royal Engineers, equipped with heavy armoured vehicles that can clear obstructions, minefields and other obstacles.

If approved by the UN in New York, the second unit will be based around 24 Airmobile Brigade, once it deploys from its base in Colchester. This force of 5,500 troops, plus additional support units, is intended to give General Smith a genuinely rapid reaction reserve because it will be helicopter-borne.

However, British military sources admitted yesterday that the first reserve force would be well protected but not "very rapid" because it would have to travel by road. The second unit, while more mobile and capable of immediate response, will be vulnerable to attack because it will be lightly equipped.

As the new strategy began to emerge yesterday, military sources confirmed that both reserve forces would come under UN command and function under the existing UN mandate. While General Smith will be able to call on the two separate units, permission for their use will have to be approved under the na-

tional command structure which each troop-contributing country has maintained since UN soldiers were first sent to Bosnia.

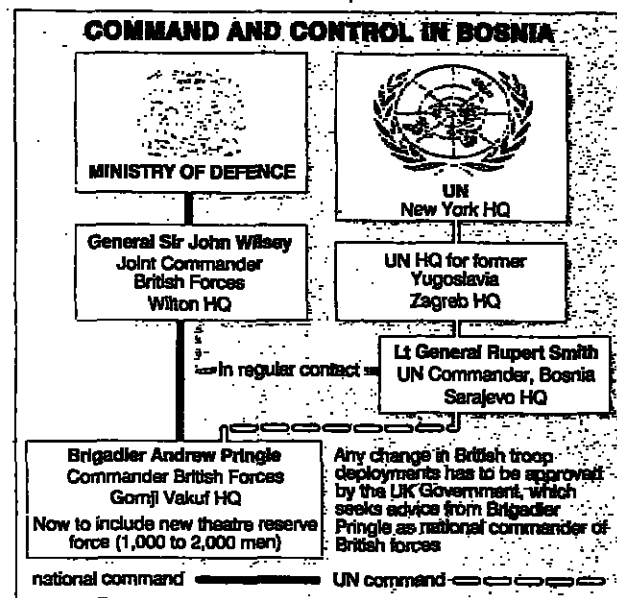
Brigadier Pringle has operational responsibility for the 3,400 British troops and the incoming reinforcements and is answerable to the Ministry of Defence, but he is also a UN commander who is given orders by General Smith. The fact that General Smith is also British is an added bonus and provides the Government with another crucial link in the UN operation in Bosnia.

Still uncertain is how many other countries will join the two proposed reaction forces. So far Canada, New Zealand and The Netherlands, all with troops in Bosnia, are expected to join the first reserve force. France's contribution to a rapid reaction capability was being worked out yesterday in Paris between British and French military officials, prior to the meeting of defence ministers in Paris on Saturday. It is possible the French might want to form a third reaction force.

For the past three days the changing strategy towards Bosnia has raised a number of key issues about the future role of UN troops and the new risks facing them in the light of the decision to strengthen the military presence. However, answers to some of the questions began to emerge yesterday.

According to military sources, the British reinforcements, while operating under the same mandate as the troops already in Bosnia, will be in a position to respond to Bosnian Serb aggression with greater robustness. The basic rules of engagement, which focus on the right of self-defence, will remain, although a codicil will have to be added to take into account the fact that British troops now have artillery for the first time.

The strengthened forces will be used to guarantee the movement of supply convoys, with the artillery available to dissuade the Serbs from trying to stop the UN's freedom of movement.



A Bosnian Serb soldier, wearing a UN emblem, stands guard near Pale yesterday

'Terrorist' acts condemned

Budapest: The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe demanded yesterday the immediate and unconditional release of United Nations peacekeepers held by Bosnian Serbs.

In a statement from the Foreign Ministry of Hunga-

ry, which currently holds the rotating chairmanship, the organisation said it fully supported international efforts to negotiate peace in former Yugoslavia and the presence of UN peacekeepers.

"The chairman-in-office demands the immediate and unconditional release of all UN personnel held hostage by the Bosnian Serbs," the statement said. "The freedom of movement and the safety of United Nations Protection Forces, as well as its ability to carry out its mandate fully, should be ensured without delay."

The organisation, in its first public statement on the latest escalation of the conflict in

Bosnia-Herzegovina, strongly condemned the "terrorist acts". It said those responsible must be held accountable.

Bosnian Serb forces have detained or surrounded more than 350 UN personnel, using them as human shields against further NATO attacks. They have offered to free the hostages in return for guarantees against air attacks.

Mr Zagreb: A Swedish civilian UN employee stationed in Banja Luka has been held by Bosnian Serbs for two days but the UN refused to call him a hostage yesterday. Fred Eckhardt, a UN spokesman in Zagreb, said: "This is a very localised incident not connected to hostage taking and the restriction of movement." (AFP)

Attack on 'safe area' mocks the UN peacekeepers

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

GORAZDE

FIGHTING continued inside the Gorazde "safe area" yesterday, trapping British peacekeepers in their bunkers for a second day and mocking the rapid-reaction force that Britain and Western countries are assembling for emergencies in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

After an overnight lull, combat resumed again at dawn, the United Nations reported. On Wednesday, 13 civilians were wounded by gunfire into the Bosnian Government-held town, but UN officers said that the Serbs were largely keeping their fire targeted at the front lines. Observers reported about 350 explosions in the immediate vicinity of the town on Wednesday.

This is the first serious outbreak of fighting in the "safe area" since NATO issued an ultimatum to Serb forces in April last year to withdraw two miles from the town centre and pull back heavy artillery from the exclusion zone. Then, Serb troops had shot down a British Sea Harrier in the first NATO airstrikes.

Fighting intensified on Wednesday as Serbs and Bosnian Muslims broke their NATO-encouraged restraint that lasted a year. UN officials said that they were unable to

British troops not under fire might as well have tea and stickies

far, Britain and Spain are the only countries that have committed themselves to participating in "Task Force Alpha", a new rapid-reaction unit being established by Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, the UN commander in Bosnia.

A UN spokesman refused to discuss its possible operations. Other than withdrawal or forcibly bringing the Serbs into line — both of which would require tens of thousands more troops — the new unit's only clear role would be for just the kind of crisis that is unfolding in Gorazde.

The British and Ukrainian peacekeepers and a Norwegian medical team in the pocket have been paralysed by the crisis. Deployed in the eastern enclaves as a "tripwire" for NATO airstrikes, the Serbs have succeeded in disconnecting the peacekeepers from the air threat. With no hope of policing the "safe area" or the exclusion zone and little chance of NATO air action to protect them, they are left to hunker down in their shelters and wait for a UN Security Council decision or the end of the fighting. Task

Force Alpha is theoretically meant to come to their rescue, but just as the hostage stand-off has kept UN commanders from calling NATO warplanes in to hit the Serbs, it also makes them think twice about de-

ploying a battle group. As for returning, Serb artillery fire from one of the two British batteries soon to be sent into central Bosnia, the eastern enclaves are far out of range of their guns. "The British troops are only under fire in Gorazde," said a NATO officer. "The rest of them might as well have tea and stickies, they're busy watching Split."

Peacekeepers and Western military officers say that without a clear decision from political leaders about whether to withdraw or go to war with the Serbs, a catastrophe is almost inevitable. "We were in a quagmire before, now it's just getting bigger," the officer said.

UN troops were sent to Gorazde a year ago, after NATO's ultimatum convinced the Serbs to give peacekeepers access to the pocket and its 60,000 inhabitants. But the heavy weapons exclusion zone and the efforts to protect the five other "safe areas" have collapsed under the gravity of the latest UN-Serb stand-off.

A highly powered Pentium™ Processor based PC for a lowly £999.*



Thanks to a Pentium processor, the Dimension P75 from Dell gives you the high performance you need at the incredibly low price of £999* (exc. VAT and delivery). Other powerful incentives include our award winning Technical Support Hotline open 8am to 8pm weekdays and our one year 'Collect and Return' warranty. At this price, can you afford to miss out on the Dimension P75?

- DELL DIMENSION P75 • INTEL® 75MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR • 8MB RAM • 256KB CACHE
- 3.5" DISKETTE DRIVE • 365MB HARD DRIVE • INTEGRATED 64-BIT PCI LOCAL BUS VIDEO WITH 1MB VIDEO MEMORY • 14" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR • 2 PCI AND 4 ISA EXPANSION SLOTS (1 SHARED) • MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- MS-DOS 6.2 / DELL MOUSE / KEYBOARD • WINDOWS FOR WORKGROUPS 3.11

DELL

00000 000000
BETWEEN 8AM & 8PM WEEKDAYS 10AM TO 4PM SAT.

Turkey tolerates Greek sea treaty

FROM REUTERS IN ANKARA

GREECE's ratification of a treaty allowing it to extend territorial waters was not a reason for war, Turkey said yesterday, although it might be another matter if Athens actually claimed new waters.

"This is nothing but Greece's ratifying the decision taken by the Law of the Sea conference," Erdal Inonu, the Foreign Minister, said. "Greece has promised not to put it into effect."

But Mr Inonu, who said he was hoping to hold talks with Greece, said Turkey would see Greek enforcement of the 1982 Law of the Sea treaty as a hostile act. Turkey has long said enforcement of the Act would be grounds for war.

The Greek parliament on Wednesday night ratified the Act, which gives it the right to double its territorial waters to 12 nautical miles. But Athens has not said it will actually enforce the accord. Ankara has refused to sign the Law of the Sea accord, which it says would turn the Aegean into a virtual Greek lake, choking Turkish access to international waters.

Turkey went ahead with scheduled military exercises in the Aegean yesterday, hours after the ratification. The land and sea exercises are due to last two weeks.

Greece attacked the exercise as provocative. "It seems Turkey is repeating the usual practice of artificial tension and provocations," Evangelos Venizelos, a Greek government spokesman, said.

PLUG INTO AN AWARD WINNING BARGAIN.

LIMITED OFFER
£14.99 INC. VAT
CONNECTED FREE
TO **VODAFONE**
LowCall

MITSUBISHI
The award winning Mitsubishi MT-9 is a very high specification phone at an incredibly low price.

- ◆ 99 name/number memory
- ◆ 50 mins talk-time
- ◆ Complete with mains charger and standard battery
- ◆ Weight approx 260g

24 DAY PEACE OF MIND
Should you not wish to proceed with your order, simply return the unit to us in its original condition and packaging within 14 days of receipt and we'll refund your money.

AWARD WINNING
Cellphones
EXCELLENCE

Why pay high street prices when you can buy Cellphones Direct? No inflated prices. Just top quality brands at rock bottom prices - direct to your door.

With FREE DELIVERY AND FREE CONNECTION to the Vodafone LowCall Tariff. PLUS A FREE IN-CAR BATTERY SAVER/CHARGER WORTH £27.50.

So put your feet up, phone over your credit card details and look forward to receiving your phone in 5 working days.

But please hurry this offer is available for a limited period only.

FREE
IN-CAR BATTERY SAVER/CHARGER
Simply plug into your car lighter socket to power your phone and re-charge the battery at the same time.

WORTH OVER £25

Cellphones
to your door

FREEPHONE 0500 000 88
CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 8AM TO 8PM WEEKENDS 8AM TO 12PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND YOUR REQUESTED MODEL WHEN YOU CALL AND ORDER. PAY BY CARD ONLY. WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS.

JAVICO 150

Clinton faces Congress battle over offer to send troops

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON was heading for a clash with Congress yesterday over his decision to send American troops into Bosnia should United Nations peacekeepers need help in retreating to more defensible positions.

Republicans and Democrats expressed opposition to a move they feared would send American forces deep into the Balkans quagmire. Robert Dole, the Republican Senate leader, demanded that Warren Christopher and William Perry, the Secretaries of State and Defence

respectively, explain this "significant policy shift" at congressional hearings next week. He and many colleagues redoubled their calls for the total withdrawal of the UN protection force (Unprofor) and the arming of Bosnia's Muslims.

However, Mr Clinton emphasised that he would only "consult" Congress, not seek its formal approval. That suggested he would take the huge political gamble — as he was prepared to do in Haiti — of proceeding even if Congress remained adamantly opposed. He

would thus be left, on the eve of a presidential election year, with absolutely no political cover if American lives were lost.

One official called it a "very high-risk political strategy", but Mr Clinton and his advisers evidently considered the alternative — the peacekeepers' total pullout — even worse. That would mean deploying a far larger force of 25,000 US troops to cover Unprofor's perilous exit, a subsequent bloodbath in Bosnia, and the humiliation of the UN, Nato and America.

Not surprisingly, the Administration was doing its utmost yesterday to avert deployments of any sort,

instructing Robert Frasure, a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, to offer new concessions to President Milosevic of Serbia. Mr Frasure was reportedly offering an indefinite suspension of most trade and financial sanctions against Serbia in return for Belgrade's recognition of Bosnia and pressure on Bosnian Serbs to release UN hostages and negotiate a peaceful settlement.

Mr Dole, the Republican presidential frontrunner, led the assaults on Mr Clinton's readiness to help Unprofor redeploy, saying the President was merely reinforcing "an irretrievably flawed peacekeeping operation which, if it drags on,

poses the greatest risk of drawing America into a Balkans quagmire". He said the Administration should pursue the only viable option left in Bosnia, which was to arm the Muslims, and would have great difficulty winning congressional approval for any deployment of US troops unless the allies first agreed to lift the UN weapons embargo.

Senator Phil Gramm, another Republican presidential candidate, said that "adding American names to the casualty list cannot save Bosnia". Senator John McCain, a distinguished Vietnam veteran, said the President was merely helping to "reshuffle the deck in a losing

game". Jesse Helms, the Senate foreign relations committee chairman, called Mr Clinton's plan "totally unacceptable". Senior Democrats were almost as hostile.

The New York Times echoed military experts in arguing that Mr Clinton's "reckless" plan could "easily open the way to direct American involvement in the fighting if, for example, the Bosnian Serbs chose to disrupt the UN redeployment".

Pentagon officials said an elite 2,000-strong Marine Expeditionary Unit, already in the Adriatic, would be the first in, but could be reinforced by the 1st Armoured Division based in Germany.

WORLD SUMMARY

Rushdie's death seen as answer

Nicosia: The author Salman Rushdie could ease strained relations between Iran and the West by dying a natural death, Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, Iran's parliamentary Speaker said.

The Speaker was quoted by Irma, the official Iranian news agency, as telling a Western journalist: "If he dies himself, our and your problem will be resolved." He reiterated that Tehran would not hunt Rushdie, condemned to death in a fatwa six years ago over his book *The Satanic Verses*. (Reuter)

Children hurt by car bombs

Karachi: Two car bombs exploded here yesterday injuring two children — one blast was in front of the Sindh provincial assembly hall. Later a bomb scare forced the stock exchange to halt trading and a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at a police station.

Nobody claimed of responsibility for the attacks. Almost 600 people have died in ethnic and sectarian strife in Karachi this year. (Reuter)

Pilots ground Cyprus airline

Nicosia: A strike by pilots over pay grounded the Cyprus charter airline Eurocyprus yesterday. Flights between Britain and Cyprus were hit and are likely to be cancelled again today, affecting 3,000 holidaymakers. An agreement has been reached with other airlines to carry the passengers, an airline official said. (Reuter)

14 charged over cinema blaze

Peking: Criminal charges have been laid against 14 officials, including a former mayor, accused of neglect over a cinema fire that killed 325 people, including 238 children, in northwest China last December, the People's Daily reported yesterday. The fire happened in the oil city of Karamay. (Reuter)

Texas executes 'joy killer'

Huntsville, Texas: Fletcher Thomas Mann, 34, described as a "joy killer" whose idol was Charles Manson, was executed by injection for a double murder in 1980. One victim was raped, stabbed and strangled. A third was left for dead, but survived. (AP)

Joint exercise

Vienna: Two Austrian youths chose the wrong place to grow marijuana — they were arrested trying to harvest their crop after an albatross found the plants on a police dog training ground. (Reuter)

Britain and France go ahead with military build-up despite Boutros Ghali appeal

West refuses to negotiate with Serbs for release of hostages

BY JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND MICHAEL BINYON

THE appeal by the United Nations Secretary-General for a more modest peacekeeping strategy in Bosnia-Herzegovina was effectively swept aside yesterday by Britain and France, the main troop-contributing countries, who plan to go ahead with creating new rapid reaction forces to provide a "tougher military presence".

As Western allies refused to deal with the Bosnian Serbs who had offered to negotiate the release of the 370 UN hostages, fresh incentives were offered to President Milosevic of Serbia to persuade him to recognise Bosnia and further isolate the Serbs.

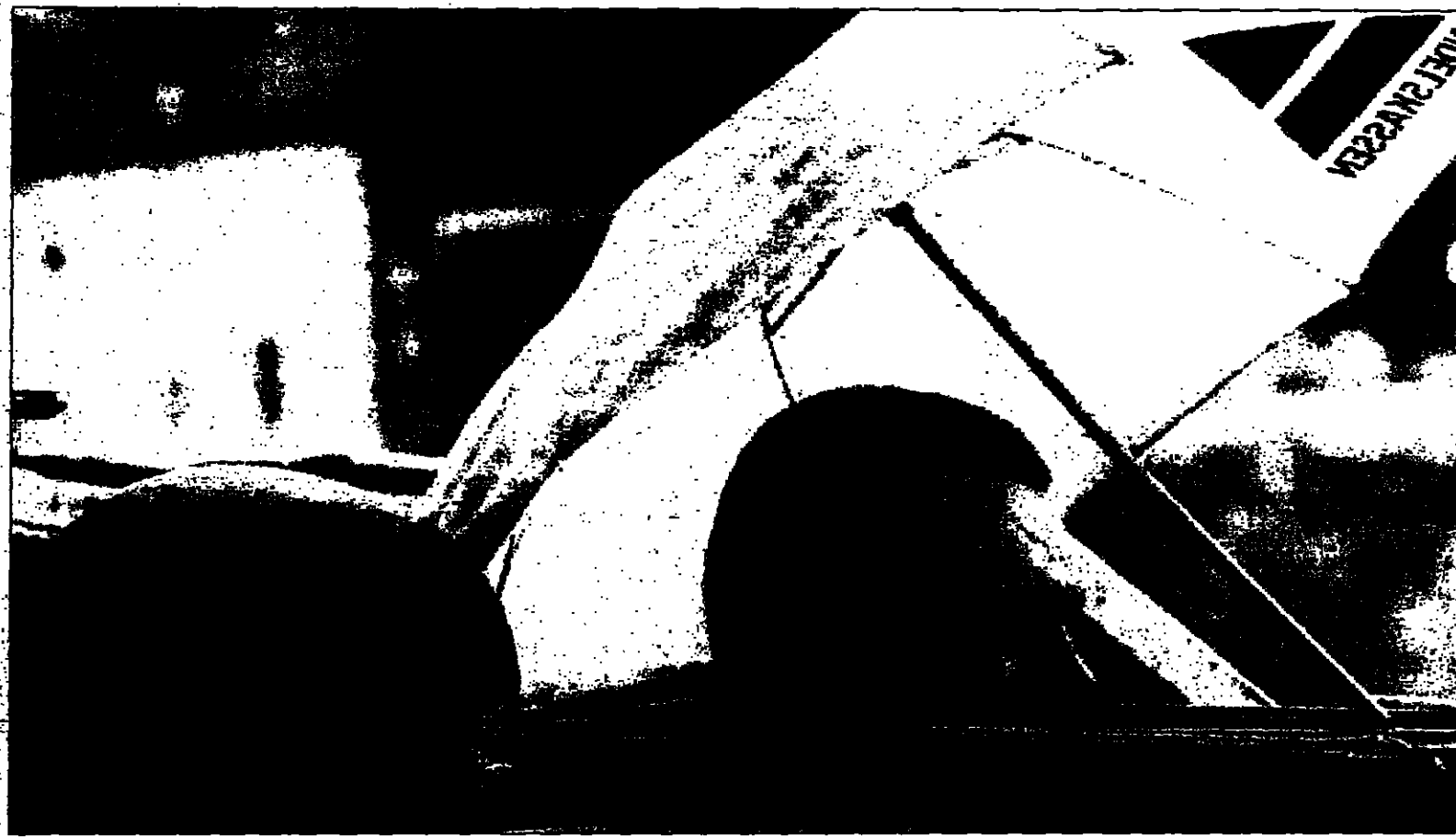
It was reported that Robert Frasure, the American envoy who is back in Belgrade, had told Mr Milosevic that international economic sanctions on Serb-led Yugoslavia effectively could be lifted, rather than suspended for a limited time.

Sources close to the talks in

Belgrade said "other economic inducements" were also on offer, including currency support for the Yugoslav dinar and loans and other credits via the European Union. It was even suggested that in return for recognition of Bosnia, Belgrade would be allowed to import a limited amount of oil products.

As diplomatic efforts continued in Belgrade, the French produced their ideas for a beefed-up force to include the creation of a secure corridor, linking Sarajevo to the outside, free access of UN forces to supply enclaves and the creation of a rapid intervention force.

In his report on Wednesday, Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali said that those countries who wanted to take a more robust approach against the Serbs should "negotiate their own multinational intervention".



A Danish soldier in Sarajevo momentarily takes off his "Blue Helmet". Britain wants to put another 5,500 troops under the UN umbrella

force to replace the UN's peacekeepers.

Although this is not supported by Britain, the French proposal, which would involve a force of about 5,000 men backed by air power, appeared to have less to do with peacekeeping than with peace enforcement.

In the flurry of diplomatic activity over the Bosnian crisis, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, will fly to Nato's southern headquarters in Europe today to streamline the alliance's co-ordination

with the UN. He also announced yesterday that Andrei Koryev, the Russian Foreign Minister, will come to London next week, underlining a key role that Russia has promised to play in securing the release of the 370 UN hostages.

Mr Hurd said he was flying to Naples later today because it was important to improve the co-ordination between Nato, with its southern command in this Italian city, and the UN Protection Force (Unprofor). He wanted Nato

participation in the Security Council debate in New York next week, and he wanted to draw together the different elements dealing with Bosnia. "There is no such thing as the international community — and this is part of the problem," he said.

The Bosnian crisis has galvanised international resolve to keep UN forces in Bosnia and to push forward with diplomatic negotiations. Mr Hurd said that Britain's role had been "considerably enhanced" by its swift decision

to send reinforcements and to take firm political action. "This has put us in a stronger position on all issues," he said.

William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, who will attend a meeting of Western defence ministers in Paris on Saturday to discuss ways to strengthen the peacekeeping force, is expected to offer equipment and logistical help.

Ken Bacon, the Pentagon spokesman, said: "We fully support European efforts to strengthen Unprofor." He added that America was prepared to offer equipment, air-lifts of equipment and troops, and to participate in planning a strengthened UN force.

□ Pale: Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, last night issued a warning that nobody should try to rescue the hostages. Speaking on Bosnian Serb television, he said: "No one should come to try to free the hostages. We must defend our own people with all the power at our disposal." Unprofor must do its job and remain neutral, he said.

Beleaguered village united in defiance

FROM EVE-ANN PRESTON IN PALE

IN THE market, beleaguered families huddled over black market casseroles. In the cemetery, an old man wept over the grave of his son-in-law, killed on the Bosnian front line in December.

This is Pale, the misty mountain resort which the Bosnian Serbs have made their headquarters. It must rank among the world's weirdest capitals — a village of pristine Balkan houses sprawling across the piecemeal slopes of Mount Jakovina, with the tiny market at its hub. An idyllic setting for a leadership which says it feels unfairly reviled in the rest of the world.

Thunderstorms yesterday sounded as ominous echoes of last week's Nato airstrikes against the Serbs' ammunition dumps, which killed four and wounded five — all local civilians.

Vjezdana Goloigra, 13, was playing outside when the bombs fell. "I was frightened and I cried," said the refugee from Zenica. "I know there is a war on and that Serbs and Muslims hate one another."

Vjezdana was one of 25,000 Serb refugees who have swollen Pale's pre-war population of 5,000. She and her family set up home in an empty building, struggling to survive on humanitarian aid and whatever they could gather from the black market.

However, the last humanitarian aid arrived more than a month ago and after the taking of the UN hostages, nobody was banking on fresh supplies. The market stalls

bore testimony to the relative lack of the border with Serbia, which President Milosevic is supposed to have sealed. No sanctions monitors were evident on the River Drina frontier at Travnik as ox carts vied with chauffeur-driven Mercedes for space.

"Thank you and see you again," the quaintly carved English language sign read on the road into Pale. "Sretno" (Good luck) it added in Serbo-Croat.

Vegetables, clothes and machine parts were also on sale in the market. Shoppers and stallholders seemed unanimously united in defiance of the UN and Nato.

"Things are not good for us but they [the Bosnian Serbs] must fight on," said Stjepana Dulic. "We will survive." Asked about the UN hostages she said: "It is the only way to defend ourselves. We have nothing against them personally."

Slavica Rakovic has the unenviable task of being in charge of the Bosnian Serb republic's foreign economic relations.

"You have to be very inventive in this job," he said. "There is a saying that money makes the world go round."

Pale was a sleepy weekend retreat for well-off Sarajevo Serbs until the 1994 winter Olympics, when many new houses were built.

Despite an apparent air of wartime normality in the village, the lives of everyone have been touched by the war. Dragana works at the munitions site, the target of last week's raids. She was on her way to work when the bombs fell.

"I threw myself to the ground but was unhurt," she said. "A soldier near me had his machine gun destroyed, but was miraculously unhurt."

Her son had just finished three years fighting on the front line outside Sarajevo. She was relieved, not so much because he was in danger from the opposing guns, but because he had taken to smoking three packets of cigarettes a day.

Chirac vows to stop return of barbarism in Europe

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC of France, in his first public pronouncement since the hostage crisis began last week, last night underlined France's tougher stance on Bosnia, promising to resist Serb aggression and prevent "the return of ethnic hatred and barbarism" in Europe.

M Chirac was in the Breton town of Vannes to pay homage to the two French servicemen killed in Sarajevo last Satur-

day. "France will no longer tolerate that her soldiers are humiliated, wounded or killed with impunity by those who are opposed to their mission of peace and protection of populations," he said, adding: "Our military presence in Bosnia is based on a simple and strong idea: Europe's security is at stake in this region."

Hailing the heroism of Marcel Amaru, 25, and Jacky Humblot, 19, the Marines

killed when French troops stormed a bridge captured by Serbs last weekend, M Chirac said they deserved the recognition of the international community.

His intervention was seen by political analysts as further evidence that he is in control of France's Bosnian policy, with developments decided at the Elysee Palace rather than at the Foreign Ministry.

In words at least, Paris has shown new resolve this week, with M Chirac's speech last night highlighting what has

been interpreted as a typically Gaullist determination to stand up for "a certain idea of France".

However, commentators are urging the President to back his commitment with actions, such as a decision to retake the bridge in Sarajevo. Failure to do so could result in public opinion turning against him, they say.

Yesterday, Hervé de Charette, the Foreign Minister, put some detail to the policies that he hopes will give substance to the President's

verbal engagements. These, he said, involved "a strengthening of the UN mission, a reinforcement of the means at the troops' disposal, the creation of a corridor enabling Sarajevo to be linked to the outside world, making Sarajevo's airport safe, the free access of UN forces to the enclaves and the creation of a rapid intervention force".

Asked if a military operation to free the hostages held by the Bosnian Serbs was feasible, M de Charette said: "These questions are open."

THE BEST TEST OF A MOUTHWASH IS APPLE PIE.

"As American as apple pie" could just as truthfully be "as American as oral hygiene." Look at the facts.

America has one oral hygienist for every 3,435 people. (In Britain we have one in 19,000.) America has a dentist for every 1,777 people. (Britain has one in every 2,800.) 60% of Americans use a mouthwash. (And most of those use Listerine.)

Since Americans take oral hygiene so seriously, we're particularly pleased with this pronouncement from their Dental Association:

"Listerine antiseptic is the only leading non-prescriptive and antimicrobial mouthwash to have the American Dental Association's Council On Scientific Affairs seal of acceptance for its safety and efficacy."

Naturally enough, Listerine offers the very same benefits where the national dish is fish and chips. And those benefits are lasting breath freshness and a reduced build-up of plaque. Use Listerine twice a day and the build-up of plaque is cut by up to 50%. Listerine is such a simple way to achieve so much good. Simple, in fact, as apple pie.

VAUXHALL Owners

COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE FROM £99

Above Example is for a Cavalier

01254 698000

During Office Hours or Phone your Nearest Branch on

0345 123111

24 Hours - All Calls Charged at Local Rate

Hill House Hammond

The Listerine Insurance Specialist

Ben Macintyre on a campus killing

Did Harvard make a murderer?

THERE is a warning that alumni of Harvard University are wont to offer their successors as proof of the intense academic pressure, and high fall-out rate, at America's premier university: "Look to your right and look to your left, and by the end of the year, two of you will be gone."

Last weekend, two female students studying at Harvard to become doctors did indeed go, victims of the worst act of violence in the university's 350-year history and evidence, perhaps, of the fatal combination of stress, immaturity and infatuation that top-level academic institutions can sometimes foster.

At 8 o'clock on Sunday morning Sinedu Tadesse, a 20-year-old student from Ethiopia, fatally stabbed her sleeping room-mate, Thang Ho, 45 times with a ten-inch knife. A visiting friend of Ho staying overnight in the Harvard dormitory was wounded when she tried to intervene.

Tadesse then barricaded herself into a bathroom and hanged herself from a shower rail. The authorities at Harvard have sought to portray the murder-suicide as a random, isolated incident. "I put in a plea for the way great novelists like Dickens or Tolstoy would see this tragedy: as a matter of fate and chance," Neil Rudenstine, the Harvard President, said.

Before the events of last Sunday, both women seemed set for stellar careers in medicine. Both had made it to America's most prestigious university by dint of hard work and ambition. Tadesse, the daughter of a provincial school administrator in Addis Ababa, went to the International Community School in Ethiopia before winning a scholarship to Harvard. Ho, also 20, came to America from Vietnam as a child and was considered the star pupil at Boston Technical High School before she too gained a place at Harvard.

For two years Tadesse and Ho shared a room, but fellow students described them as driven and withdrawn. While they flourished academically, their relationship appears to

have been childishly intense. Two loners clinging to one another despite their differences. When they quarrelled, and Ho announced she no longer wished to have Tadesse as her room-mate, the Ethiopian woman was devastated. "You'll always have a family to go to, and I am going to have no one," Tadesse, who returned to Ethiopia only once during her time at Harvard, complained.

Police now believe Tadesse plotted the murder-suicide in advance. Early last week she sent a photograph of herself to *The Harvard Crimson* student newspaper, along with a letter in which she advised: "Keep this picture. There will soon be a very juicy story involving the person in this picture."

In the wake of Sunday's deaths, Harvard's "crisis intervention teams" of trained counsellors have fanned out through the campus at Cambridge, Massachusetts to reassure students. Two other students have committed suicide at Harvard this year, but Bill Fitzsimmons, admissions dean, says Harvard's legendary reputation for pressuring its students is out of date. The university's graduation rate of 97 per cent is the highest in the country, he points out.

Yet the stress of maintaining standards at Harvard is not limited to the students. Mr Rudenstine himself was forced to take a sudden leave of absence last winter, exhausted by the demands of his job.

THE recession has helped to make the competition for places at Harvard and comparable universities still more ferocious, particularly for those hoping to go on to medical school, and particularly for women. For the first time, women now outnumber men in "pre-med" courses at both Harvard and Yale.

Harvard clearly represented the entire universe for Sinedu Tadesse, who planned to kill her erstwhile friend and kill herself, it seems, but still had time to think of getting a "juicy story" and a posthumous picture in the student newspaper.



Death plan: Sinedu Tadesse

Packaging the old school

Alice Thomson on the young English director whose prep-school memories took Hollywood by storm

Forget rollerblading, fat-free diets and Calvin Klein underwear: what the Americans really want is the great British tradition. First it was period dramas and frock coats, then it was *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. Now another young British film-maker is trying to do it with draughty boarding schools and sticky rice pudding.

Justin Hardy's film, *A Feast at Midnight*, out this week, is about what the upper classes do before they don hats and tails and rush off to damp English churches. The film is set in a vast rural pile called Dryden Park boarding school. Lonely ten-year-old Magnus, whose parents are in Paris, arrives by cab and, in the best tradition of English public schools, is given "a ragging" by fellow brats and is terrorised by cane-wielding masters.

His bed is turned over and he is forced to eat a diet of healthy tofu lasagne and grated beetroot. Eventually he discovers that the way to his new chums' hearts is through their stomachs and, hijacking the kitchen at night, he organises a social club called *The Scoffers*, cooking such delicacies as *crème brûlée* with fresh strawberries.

Critics have been quick to slate the film. "Horrible little toffs who insist on saying yah instead of yes grate on the nerves like cheese grates on the grater," says one. "Stale and stodgy, this feast is more of a ribble," says another.

But Mr Hardy doesn't care. At the age of 30, he is reveling in having made a film which is billed alongside Woody Allen's *Bullets Over Broadway* in the West End.

He now has offices in Charlotte Street which include casting couches and pin-ups of blonde wannabe actresses, and has the confidence to walk into restaurants with shades and mobile phone ringing. With his gold kipper tie and suede shoes, he is the very model of an unusually polite, public-school Hollywood mogul. An unashamed scoffer, he picks one of the best menus in town rather than a table to be seen at, and hovers his way through the menu asking for "large as possible" of snail ravioli and *poulet noir* with truffles, saying that the foie

gras is better than at Cannes. Like several of his contemporaries at Oxford, Mr Hardy spent two years experimenting with arty Norwegian dramas, tomato ketchup horror films and paper-thin costume pieces while making ends meet writing for *The Bill*. He took his first arty feature to a British film company, but "the guy didn't even look at me. He just sneered and said, 'Haven't you noticed we don't make films in Britain any more?'"

Mr Hardy packed his bags for Hollywood the next day and enrolled at UCLA Film School. Unlike other aspiring young Brits, he had no contact with swimming pools, no girlfriends like Elizabeth Hurley, and had to share a bunk with a 20-stone ex-military policeman in a dingy downtown

His Charlotte Street offices include casting couches and pin-ups

hotel. When he saved up some money, he got held up by a maniac with a sawn-off shotgun. He became a reader. "It was the best experience I ever had. Reading five scripts a day, I finally learnt how to tell stories," he says, "and how to be a commercial success. I knew I was not the starving-in-a-garret type." He also met Yoshi Nishio, another British escapee, who had chucked in a job at Goldman Sachs to make a splash in LA. "Returning two years later, we were stunned that the British film industry had risen from the cutting floor. We had three months to get a film together under the Business Expansion Scheme before the Government closed it," he says.

In October 1993 they wrote a script. In November they ate their way round 50 prep schools, tasting their prunes and custard, before finally finding the perfect location. They rang Christopher Lee of horror film fame, Robert Hardy, Sam West and Edward Fox, who all miraculously agreed to appear. In Decem-

ber they had to find £500,000. Mr Nishio dragged Mr Hardy on to the trading floors of Goldman Sachs after it closed, and they pitched. "They had just got their bonuses. In return for £10,000, we gave them their names in the film, so the pupils are all East-End Kevins and Ians rather than Snoggleton-Smythe."

The idea came from Mr Hardy's schooldays. "The stories I told at dinner that girls always responded to best were about being a fat boy at boarding school who couldn't play games and resorted to eating chocolate out of combination-lock briefcases with the other lonely fatties." (At his next school, he went on a diet and took up cross-country running, which is why Mr Hardy is a rather svelter-looking Bunter these days.) "One of my girlfriends had been an under-matron and that gave me the romantic angle." The filming was done at Hawtreys Preparatory School in Wiltshire. The crew all slept in dormitories and the boys were plucked straight from class.

Mr Hardy refuses to admit the film is elitist. "It is for anyone who was not a popular child. Hollywood taught me to write about what you know, so there was no point in me basing it on Slough Comprehensive. If you can't sympathise with rich and privileged children, that's your problem."

It showed in Sweden, where there are no private schools, and they gave it a standing ovation. In Cannes, producers bought him champagne on the Croisette. The Japanese were drooling over the *crème caramel* and the Americans adore the next *Little Lord Fauntleroy* and have asked him to direct *Mighty Duck 3*. In Britain he's fully booked up on the kiddies' circuit and starring on John Craven's *Newsround*.

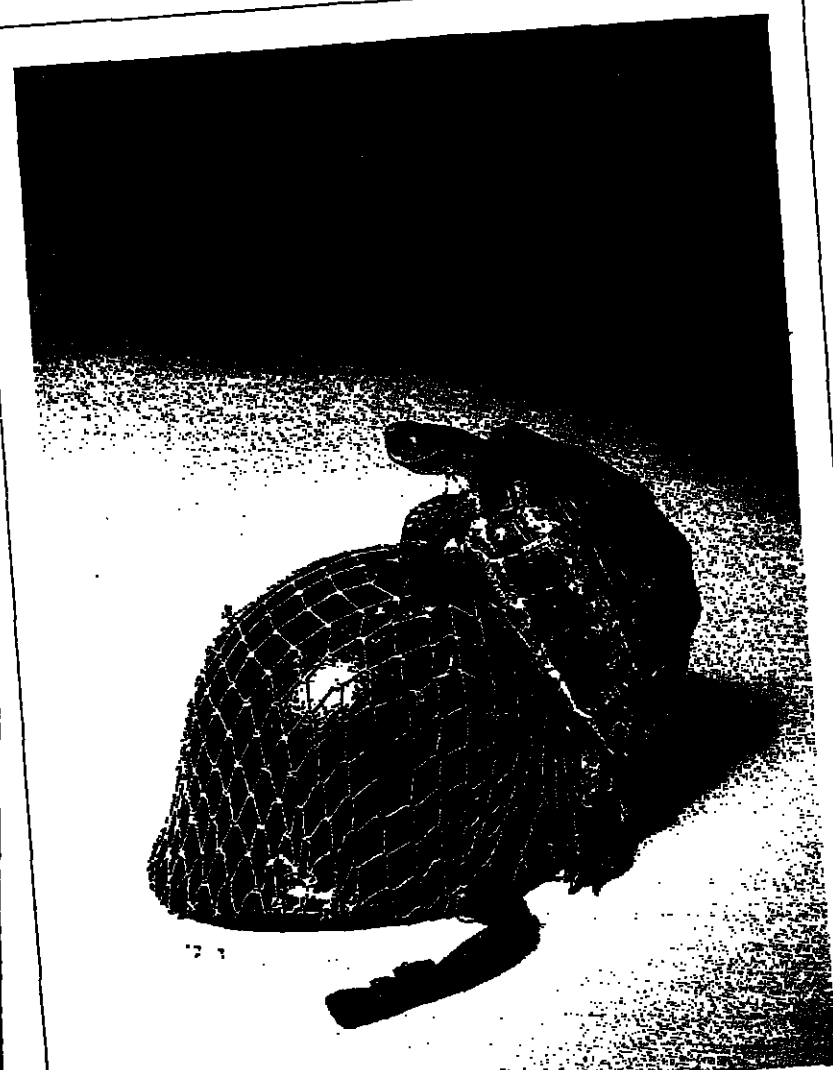
Mr Hardy has the guts to make it in the film industry and is convinced the British can beat Hollywood at their own game. He began with few illusions. "My father, the director Robin Hardy, didn't work for 11 years after his film, *The Wicker Man*, was panned by the critics. Later it became a cult. My film will never be a *Casablanca* but I can see it being wheeled out every Christmas with *The Sound of Music*," he says.

Mr Hardy is now making his sequel, *Proper Little Madames*, in which a bunch of overdeveloped schoolgirls open a whorehouse. *The Late Show* might sneer, the Americans will love it, and Mr Hardy, one eye on the family market, promises it will still have a PG certificate.



"I learnt commercial success — I'm not the starving-in-a-garret type," Justin Hardy says

Newspapers are the perfect place to strike up a lasting relationship.



Compatibility is never a problem with Apple Macintosh.

On top of that, Apple Macintosh is renowned for its ease of use. It's the most powerful computer in the world to use, and it's the only one that's so easy to use. You can be up and running in under an hour. And, because it's so easy to use, it's the only computer that's so popular with so many people. It's the only computer that's so easy to use, it's the only one that's so popular with so many people. It's the only computer that's so easy to use, it's the only one that's so popular with so many people.

If a product is to find a place in our homes, it must first find a place in our hearts.

Such a relationship can rarely be achieved in one advertisement.

The Apple Macintosh™ is a classic example of a product which has won an enduring place in our affections.

For years its makers have used newspapers to conduct a love affair with the consumer, steadily building up a relationship.

A witty and charming series of advertisements have, over the years, informed, captivated and won our hearts.

Macintosh itself can be now scarcely be thought of as an inanimate object (think, it certainly isn't). It has its own character, virtues, strengths and eccentricities.

All of which are strongly in evidence in this outstanding advertisement by agency Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO.

which won a top prize in our recent National Newspaper Campaign Advertising Awards. Congratulations.

Schools are like ships: no good if the captain has to keep glancing back

Three years ago, there was a flurry of head abuse in the independent schools. The Dragon School in Oxford had a headmaster in and out within months; St Paul's gave a new High Mistress the heave-ho, and a public school in Wales suffered "differences" which resulted in the head being, so I wrote at the time, slung out like some Victorian twenty who broke a plate too many.

That head wrote to me saying yes, it did feel rather like that. Another ex-head, who jumped just before he was pushed, also wrote. "I left voluntarily," he said, "because I am nearly 60, and hate rows. But I also did it because of the damage a visible sacking would do to my successor's morale. Schools are like ships: no good if the captain has to keep glancing behind him. You need to believe you are in charge or you couldn't do the job at all."

He will no doubt note with interest the conference this week of his state school equivalents. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, has asked governors to stop meddling and give heads their head. There is, he claimed, growing evidence of a mentality which suspends first and asks questions afterwards. "There are governing

Give heads their heads

bodies which think that the easy answer to a school's problems is to change the head, just as the easy answer to pulling a football team up the league is to change the manager." He



LIBBY PURVES

was widely applauded: a colleague chipped in to say that some of his fellows are now required to telephone their governors every Monday to clear the school's programme for the week. He added that governors are happy to support them when all is well, but immediately dissociate themselves the moment things go wrong.

Now I am sure that there are plenty of head teachers who genuinely deserve a firework up their gowns. Every major inspectors' report for the last 30 years has made the point that the most important difference between good and bad schools is not catchment or resources, but

quality of leadership. The impossibility of shifting bad state-school heads except by "early retirement on health grounds" is legendary: ten minutes with any group of parents in the country will reveal that there is one local head known to absolutely everybody as a time-serving, burnt-out waste of space, yet nothing gets done. There is no compulsory formal training for headship, not even a week of sharpening up bread-and-butter management skills: a good deputy can become a disastrous head (which is why so many admirable teachers, full of self-knowledge, spend the second half of their career sedulously avoiding promotion).

Governors, in short, sometimes have reason to be disaffected. Even though it was they who appointed their head teacher in the first place: so to suspend or harass

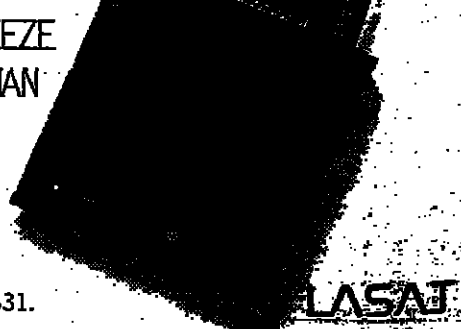
him or her is a tacit admission that they are pretty lousy managers themselves in the business of recruitment. And yet I find myself on David Hart's side. A school is a complex, unpredictable human enterprise. To lead one, especially to redirect one, takes time, ingenuity, patience, and a combination of tact and ruthless forcefulness which is rare (and which is probably very tiring indeed to exercise all day). It requires strong private certainties, broad vision combined with a respect for detail, and a sense of humour.

Sometimes, people who have these qualities can be idiosyncratic. Sometimes they are rather annoying; but then, bland socialite heads who butter up the governors and local worthies are sometimes not very good at actually running the school.

We hope for head-teachers of genius, or at least of character. But such people must be given space to breathe: sometimes governors must stand back and trust them for longer than they enjoy. They may have chosen the timber and carved it into a head teacher with a few strokes of the pen; but once that is done, they should stop jerking on the strings. Let Pinocchio show what he can do.

THE NEW LASAT 288 CAN SQUEEZE DATA TIGHTER THAN A FRENCHMAN SQUEEZES HIS ACCORDION.

For only £299, the unique 288 gives you the fastest technology available, in a case just fractionally bigger than a diskette. So when you're on the move, you'll find it no trouble to squeeze it into your briefcase. For your nearest dealer, call 0800 136 331.



LASAT

After 25 years in the wings Corin Redgrave is in demand again, as an actor and his father's biographer

'My father couldn't tell me about his affairs with men'

He has a noble profile, a scholarly manner, and a beautifully modulated classic English voice. His fine comic performance as that pompous ass Sir Walter Elliot in the televised *Persuasion* reminded us what a loss to the acting profession Corin Redgrave has been. In the years he has spent on platforms declaiming Marlowe instead of bestriding the stage like a colossus. But it is not too late. The Redgrave boy is only 56, ripe for character roles, and he has also erupted, in print, to exorcise his father's ghost.

We perched in Vanessa Redgrave's tiny dressing-room at the Riverside Studio, Hammersmith, where brother and sister Redgrave are running their Moving Theatre Company season of plays with stirring political themes, including *Vanessa in Antony and Cleopatra*, which was shown to the critics last night. Of the three Redgrave siblings, Vanessa was their father's chosen one, whose talent was worshipped. Corin might have become the professional figure he resembles. From Westminster he won a classics scholarship to King's, Cambridge, switched to English and took a First despite spending all his time with the Marlowe Society: he directed the first single-play production of *Henry VI* with Trevor Nunn and Ian McKellen.

When his father saw him in *A Man For All Seasons* in 1967 he noted in his diary: "Corin very good. Strong. His eyes are a little close together, I notice for the first time."

Politics came after Cambridge, through CND, when Vanessa joined the Committee of 100 with Bertrand Russell. "I was very influenced by Vanessa," he says, "and still am. It's a very understanding relationship: we were thrown together for large parts of our childhood when my parents were abroad, or touring, or out every evening in the theatre, so we got to know and love many of the same things at the same time."

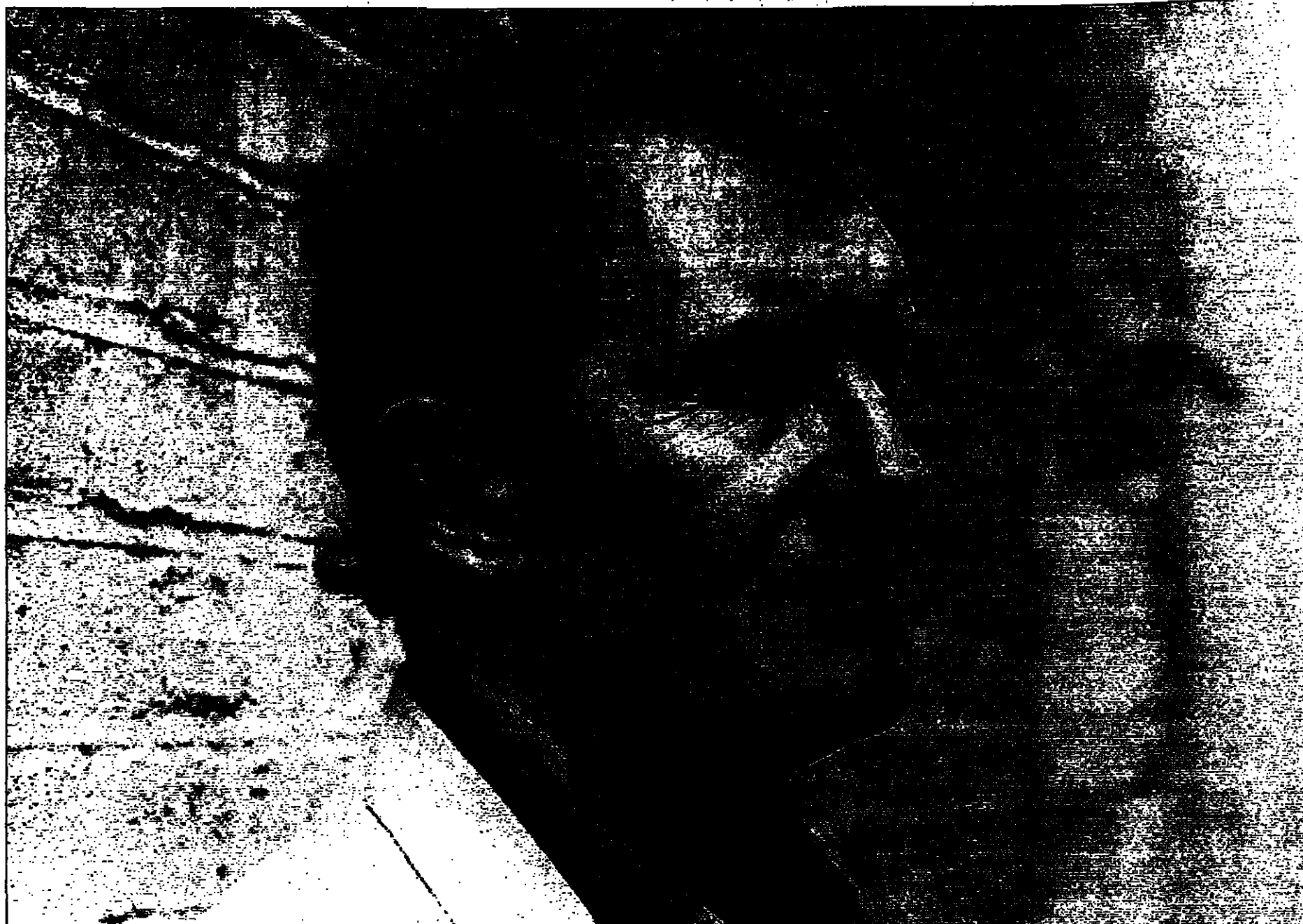
Corin Redgrave has never left acting, but for a while it left him. He says he was blacklisted by the BBC for nearly a quarter of a century for his political activities. "Only last October, when I was driving into the BBC car park, did I realise I had not been there for 24 years."

He cannot quite prove his claim. "The mechanics of it are shadowy," he says, "but when the book *Blacklist* by Richard Norton-Taylor and Mark Honigsbaum was published, it was cautiously admitted and defended, and only partly denied. But it is extremely difficult for a performer to put his or her finger on a case of blacklisting, which can always be denied. The choice of a particular actor is made by a whole team of people — and there are always plausible reasons for not employing any one." Approaches have been

made, over the years. Would he be Angelo in *Measure For Measure*? Then an inexplicable silence would fall. "But offers do go cold, for real or plausible reasons."

There is clearer documentary evidence for his father's blacklisting. Sir Michael Redgrave signed the Communist Party's "People's Convention" in 1940 and was declared *persona non grata* by the BBC. After much lobbying the ban was lifted. But Redgrave Jr's ostracism was self-perpetuating: actors are only as good as their last job. The less you do, the less you get offered — and he was standing for the Workers' Revolutionary Party, and editing *Marxist Monthly*. Only recently he was giving a course in Marxism in Birmingham.

"Without false modesty, acting is a very ephemeral profession. The waters close over you very quickly, when you've gone down for the third time. Very little remains to remind people of what you did, even if you have notched up scores of film and television appearances, as my father did. Acting fades." Today, with *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, in the



"I don't believe parents should share details of their sex lives with their children," says Corin Redgrave — but now he has chosen to write about his father's homosexual lovers

share details of their sex lives with their children. "So men like 'Tommy', with whom Michael was deeply in love at the time of Corin's birth, and Bob Mitchell, an Irish-American, remained undisclosed."

But I was put out to read somewhere that my father 'lacked the courage'. He was not a cowardly person," he says, "but he was anxious that the climate was becoming less liberal — as it is, with the attention given to Professor Socrates' view that homosexuality is an illness, backed by evidence from related sciences like genetics, which I find alarming."

So his book joins the biographies in which fathers are revealed to have been bigamous or otherwise secretive leaders of double lives. Michael Redgrave's own father, an Edwardian actor named Roy Redgrave, was a bigamist whose son, Michael's half-brother, emerged only last year in Vancouver where Lynn Redgrave was touring with her play, *Shakespeare for My Father*. Even in Corin Redgrave's childhood, a father like Michael had plenty of opportunity to go off on secret escapades — impossible today, Corin says, in the era of the flying fax and the mobile telephone.

Michael was therefore a sporadic father, who never guessed how unhappy Corin was at school. For a time he was at a local Chiswick primary school — he claims children played barefoot in the street near by, in 1946 — where, with his post-voice and his little velvet-collared coat, "I was such an oddity that the boy next to me stuck a pencil in my cheek so hard the lead stuck in my cheek, and asked, 'Did it hurt?'"

His book is a publishing landmark, the first from the new imprint of Richard Cohen Books, with its subtle motif. It turns out that Cohen — who was four times an Olympic fencer — and Redgrave were both taught swordsmanship by the same master. Redgrave too might have gone to the Olympics (Rome 1960): "I was the best fencer of my time," he says, "but to fence requires dedication, and I opted for acting."

When his father died in 1985, "virtually penniless" after all the full-time nursing, Corin had just enough money to buy a small plot in Highgate Cemetery (£600) but nothing to spare for a headstone. With no salary from his party, he has long been supported by his second wife Kika Markham, mother of his two younger sons.

It was Kika's political commitment that first struck him. Like her own actor father, Robert Markham, who would stand outside the Soviet Embassy with a banner and worked tirelessly on behalf of dissidents, "she spent a great deal of her time on activities that bring people blisters on their feet, and bring cold comfort. It made me love her from a distance."

Last Sunday was Lady Redgrave's 85th birthday. There was to have been a

gathering of the clan, but Lynn could not come from California and Natasha is about to have her son by Liam Neeson, to be called Michael. A third generation is now firmly in the business but Corin Redgrave scorns the dynasty theory about the Redgrave gift. He says everyone can act. But in a theatrical family, a child absorbs the idea of performance, and grows up with it.

Corin, with his Shakespearean name, was so completely in love with Shakespeare by the age of 11 he learnt *Richard II* in its entirety in six weeks.

Richard Olivier, in his book about his search for manhood after his father's death, asks: "And was this to be my life, trying and inevitably failing to overcome a myth and 'beat'

my father on his own territory?" Corin recognises the difficulties: he cited Rex Harrison's son Noel, and Alec Guinness's son Matthew, and said how hard it was for sons of "highly garlanded" fathers...

But should not everyone, however celebrated their parents, draw a line, at a certain age, and acknowledge that

their own lives start from here? "I agree, one ought to be able to stop blaming one's parents, or feeling responsible for them, but... I don't think it is possible ever to shake off the parental influence, or accept in any full sense a person's death."

"It does haunt me: I am haunted by him. You keep people with you in your mind

and memory and affections, and that is one of the sustaining things. So even now, when most things I do are very different from what he would have done, I can feel without sentimentality that I am doing it for him. And although I do not believe in an afterlife, I can hear his voice in my ear, and the sound his football makes."

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



Name of the Father and *Persuasion* behind him, Corin Redgrave must surely now be pursued.

His new book is called *Michael Redgrave My Father*. "Biography is an act of revenge," he writes dramatically. "Why must I take revenge? For all the things my father never told me? For all the secrets he kept from me? Or just for having died?" It is not a vengeful study, however; more a gentle filial exorcism. Almost the only political line in it is a moment's rage about doomed St Bartholomew's Hospital, where his father, with Parkinson's disease, was superbly cared for.

When he became his father's amanuensis in 1981, the autobiography they wrote together, *In My Mind's Eye*, left much unsaid. His father had told him: "I am, to say the least, bisexual." What made Corin decide, now, to write about his father's love affairs with men? "It was something my father wished to write about, but couldn't. He withdrew from talking to me about them, and I respected that. I don't believe parents should

Loneliness is just one problem

And it is a fairly common problem for seafarers away from home for months at a time. But it is only one of the troubles that people bring to us. As a Christian society working among seafarers we are asked for all kinds of help—spiritual, emotional, social and practical.

And we are there, ready to give all the help we can, in all parts of the world. To give this help we depend entirely upon voluntary contributions. Please help us to continue the Anglican Church's ministry to seafarers by a legacy, or please send whatever you can to

The Missions to Seamen, Freeport, London, EC4R 4EP.

The Missions to Seamen
St. Michael Paternoster Royal,
College Hill, London EC4R 2RL.
Charity No. 212432



SHARPS
bedrooms

The Sharps Bedrooms

14 DAY SALE



MORE THAN
50% OFF
MOST RANGES

Sharps are Britain's No.1 fitted bedroom company and right now you'll save 50% on the price of any bedroom in our special 14 Day Sale! Your bedroom will

FINAL WEEK
SALE MUST END
SUNDAY JUNE 4TH

be professionally designed, planned and installed in your home in just 3 weeks. Plus there are extra savings to be made on every Sharps range if you order in this final week!

VISIT A SHOWROOM OR PHONE FREE 0800 789789

SHOWROOM OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - SATURDAY 9.30 - 5.30. ALL SHOWROOMS OPEN SUNDAY 10.00 - 4.00

SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

LONDON
[List of London showrooms with addresses and phone numbers]
OTHER CITIES
[List of other cities with showrooms and phone numbers]

SHARPS
Britain's favourite bedrooms

WALLS & THE WEST
[List of showrooms and phone numbers]

JAVICO LTD

Matthew Parris



■ People say Harold Wilson was like John Major, but he was worse than that: he was like Tony Blair

After Harold Wilson's death last week it quickly became the wisdom of the hour to remark that although his apparent successor was another bright, articulate modern — Tony Blair — his real heir was John Major. Both men, it was suggested, were destined to spend their careers holding their parties together, bending principle before pragmatism, reeling from crisis to crisis. The observation is not without force.

Does Wilson's career hold no lessons for new Labour? I am not so sure. I was struck by a remark of Wilson's repeated by Blair in his Commons tribute. I was even more struck that Blair chose to repeat it: "The Labour Party is a moral crusade or it is nothing," he quoted. "Let that be his epitaph."

It was an affecting moment. But of course Wilson's Labour Party was not a moral crusade. It was anything but. His career was many things, but never that. It was marked by its failure to become any sort of moral crusade. His enemies came to exorcise (and his admirers to celebrate) the skill with which, time and

Like pork, piety in politics, tastes sweet but rots fast

hesitate not over the truth of the story, but over the wisdom of using it on television. Piety in politics, like pork, tastes sweet but rots fast. Like pork, piety gone rotten stinks, as the Tories learnt with "back to basics". We may be at first moved by a parade of virtue, but something in us (especially the English) doesn't quite like it. Confronted by sanctimony, we hanker after proof that it is hypocrisy.

Such was Wilson's skill as an entertainer, so folks were his homilies, so unappealing the Tory alternative, that he beguiled us for too long. But when we realised at last that he was just like all the other politicians — in love with power, unable to deliver what he had promised, capable of deceit, entranced by his own reflection — we felt cheated, and disappointment turned to a special contempt.

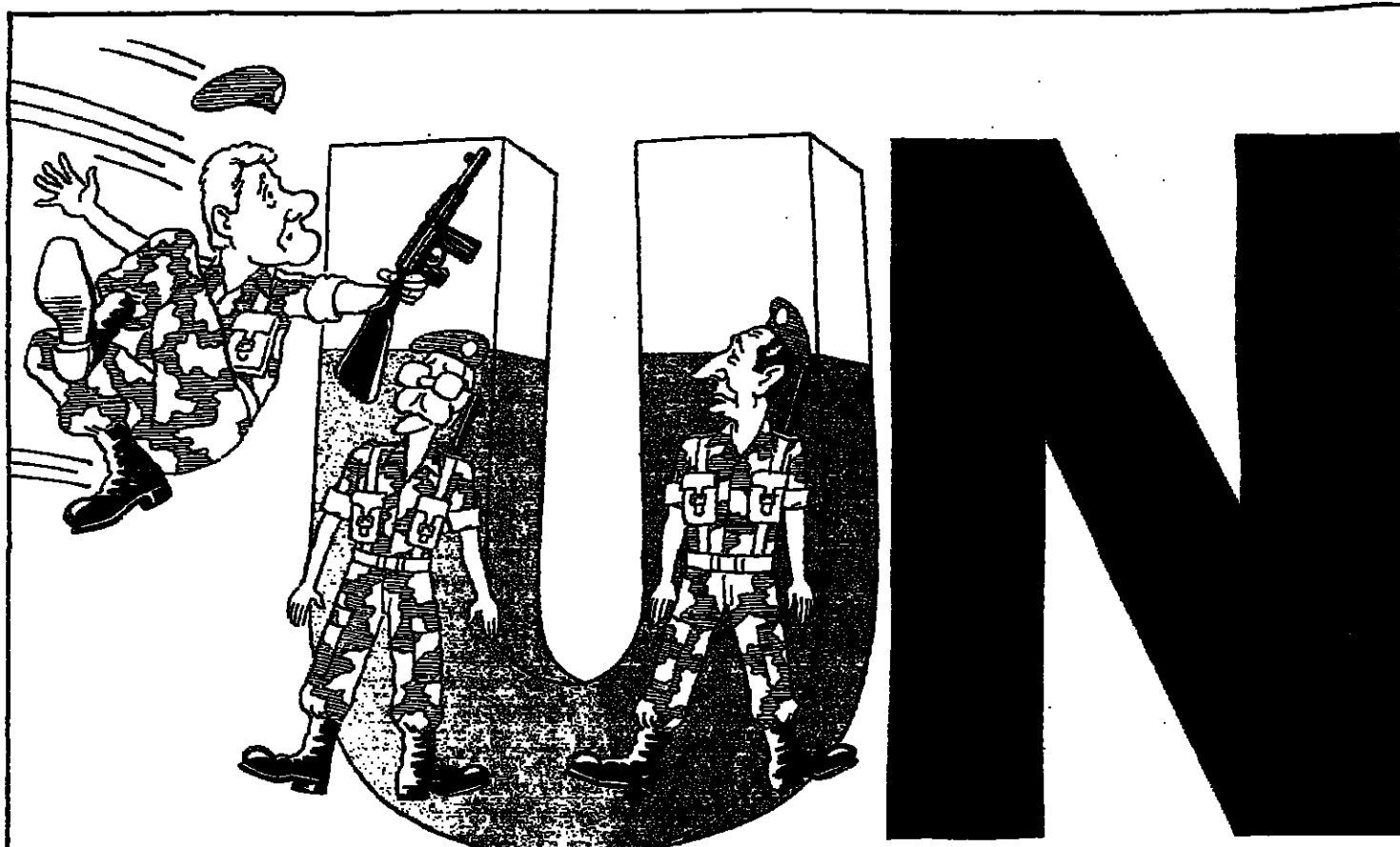
As toward those TV evangelists who are found in bed with prostitutes, or those charity fundraisers whose fingers are found in the till, we feel a personal disgust for fallen political preachers for fallen virtue had seduced those whose virtue had seduced us — and it goes beyond political disapproval. The media rooted energetically for evidence that Wilson was financially or sexually corrupt. He was not, but, Lord, how we wanted him to be!

Tony Blair will never line his pockets and does not strike me as a ladies' man. Nor has he personalised his campaign by boasts about boyhood idealism, family life, or his own virtue. He hardly mentions his Christianity. His campaign must be acquired of any open attempt to celebrate his own rectitude.

But the language tells another story. Scan his abstract nouns and you will sniff a curious blend of pulp and school assembly. The vocabulary is of trust and honour; of compassion, conviction, integrity, community, morality, honesty and probity; of values, standards, faiths and beliefs. In the Commons he slips into the habit of implied superior virtue. With indignation just a shade too righteous and eyes just a mite too wide, he appeals to the heavens to be his judge.

What, then, when it turns to dust? Political promises often do: the large, intangible claims Blair is wedded to always do. His must. When he fails, how can he stop us hating him for it? His fate, some years into his premiership, is being decided now, in these critical days as his reputation is forged.

A little modesty, a little humour, some acknowledgement that life is complex and none of us perfect, would help supporters stick with him when he fails.



IN BOSNIA

The worst thing since

Cast your medium sliced upon the waters, and it will return all soggy

The other day, browsing through the FT, I came upon some words that would harrow up thy soul, freeze thy young blood, make thy two eyes, like stars, start from their spheres, thy knotted and combined locks to part, and each particular hair to stand on end, like quills upon the fretful porpoise. And those words were... a loaf of pre-packed sliced white bread in Sainsbury supermarkets...

Well? The remit of the pink'un, of course, can go no further than matters concerning the price of bread, loss-leading practices, the strength of grocery retailers in the UK, and similar grave subjects. But I have no such restraints, and I can say, as forcibly as possible, that the men — they are, of course, the Lords Sainsbury themselves — who sell loaves of pre-packed sliced white bread should suffer indignantly, and my curse, therefore, falls upon each of them, viz:...

Sleep shall neither night nor day Hang upon his penit-house lid. He shall live a man forbid. Weary set-nights nine times nine Shall he dwindle, peak and pine.

To my shame, I did not previously know that there is an organisation with the sonorous, indeed noble, name of the National Association of Master Bakers, because if I had known I would have joined it long ago — not, of course, to barge in and start giving lessons to the experts, but to be proud to be a non-baking member. (After all, I am a *Chevalier du taste — Fromage de France*, and I have a handsome thingie on a beautiful green velvet ribbon to prove it.)

Now not for nothing is bread called the staff of life: just try saying "the staff of life" about carrots or sausages or fruit-cake, let alone — ugh — broccoli. A mere glance at the Scriptures will find them crammed with bread, as this list, a mere fragment of the full catalogue, will show: "And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening"; "Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant"; "How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!"; "Feed him with bread of affliction"; "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread"; "Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart [one in the eye for the Rechabites]; "Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it"; "Man doth not live by bread alone"; "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? [Clearly a reference to Sainsbury's]; "He was known of them in breaking of bread"; "And they shall eat flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread"; "Our father... but I cannot insult my readers by telling them where the most familiar use of the word is to be found: "Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will give him a stone?"

And if I added the Shakespeare items we would be up all night. Meanwhile, the fightback is coming, and the members of the National Association of Master Bakers, led by their president, Mr Roy Flint, can count on me. And someone has to be counted on, if only because — well, spit this bit out:

Mr Flint said: "We are the true fresh food manufacturers, not exponents of the process of pre-formed bread — a double-baked loaf however you disguise it."

He was referring to the trend among retailers towards buying in pre-baked bread and then giving it a final baking in the store, and did you ever hear anything as nasty?

Some years ago, when I was doing one of my television series — *Hannibal's Footsteps* — I had to get up very early for several days in a row, and as I trotted the same route, towards where the cameras would be, very few of the inhabitants were stirring. But one was hard at work: I never saw him, but I knew he was the baker, and I knew that because as I passed his premises I was engulfed in the glorious scent that poured out into the street every day at the same time. (It made me drool: more to the point, it made me hungry.)

But it also reminded me of the mystery of the British Loaf: part cardboard, part warm water, part rags from the neighbourhood clothiers, part straw, part dust, part contents of the neighbourhood rubbish-bins. Why? Why, when it is no less difficult to make good bread than to make bad bread, do the British plump for the latter? Now I am a lifelong devotee of Marks & Spencer, but when I walk (rather rapidly) past the "bread" section and see all the pre-sliced, waxed-paper-wrapped stuff that my dog wouldn't touch, if I had a dog, and that my cat wouldn't touch, if I had a cat, I shake my head in wonder. (A tip: if you shop in the Marble Arch M&S, as I do, all you have to do is to hop across the road to Selfridges, where a wide variety of excellent, crusty bread is to be found.)

That scourge of all wickednesses that deserve to be scourged, Frank Field, MP, has taken up the cause of the bakers, but even he can do no more than help them in their struggle against the under-cutters: the British loaf must be as much a mystery to him as it is to me. Even the Germans, who know nothing about food other than to stuff themselves to bursting, can beat the British Loaf with that black, very slightly damp bread of theirs. (The Italians don't even try to make bread, but that is not because they don't care, it is that their pasta, which is the best in the world, takes the place of bread in that country.)

Oh, yes, no doubt some of the bakers in the Association are backsliders, upholding the cause while dragging it down by going in for the British Loaf, but there are always worms in the crust.

I like the ceremony of taking bread and salt to make a bargain or a promise: it is still done in the Middle East (where it started), I ask, because so many ancient rituals have crumbled away into the dust: a pity. The

Jews have it both ways: their most solemn rituals are accompanied by *matzo*, their unleavened bread, but for the rest of the year they succumb. (The most Orthodox don't succumb: they eat kosher bread.) In my childhood, which was only very faintly religious, I acquired a taste for *matzo*, and I have never lost it: there is always a packet in my larder. Rakusen, to me, means my very oldest memories: it must have been one of the first words I could say, though it is only — only! — the name of the greatest purveyor of *matzo* and of all Jewish eating, right down to the pickled cucumbers.

I fear I have strayed; Master Bakers are surely not interested in something entirely flat. (You never know; they may be making *matzo* under the supervision of the Beth Din, which is the body that governs Orthodox Jews in many things, including food, and which, if you ask me, is a pestilent nuisance.) Was it not the peasants of Russia who marched as the Revolution began under the banner cry of "Bread, Peace and Land"? If so, they were shrewd; there was to be no peace for many years, and the land still eludes them: but at least they could ask for bread without getting a stone.

The supermarket has been a boon to many. But there was a catch. Not only am I old enough to have watched the butcher cut the meat and the baker hand over the loaf still warm, but I can even remember when the grocer wrapped the goods and tied the parcel with string. The question is obvious: who knows the name of the lady who puts the goods into the bag in a supermarket? Nobody. Who now stops for a chat across the counter about the new baby? (The answer is that there isn't a counter.) But I am not just remembering things past: the supermarket has dulled the edge of shopping in making everything the same, while the corner shop distilled not only conversation and the products, but something new and untried.

So hurrah for the National Association of Master Bakers, and down with the Sainsburys and their ilk! I wouldn't half laugh if they cut their thumbs off, but unfortunately that is most unlikely, because (and this is where we came in) it is impossible to cut a thumb off with a loaf of pre-packed sliced white bread. Oh, well; they might choke on it.

Kenya's son also rises

Sam Kiley on the ambitions of Richard Leakey

Could Dr Richard Leakey become the first white president of an independent African country? Clearly Kenya's ruler, Daniel arap Moi, thinks he has a chance. Why else would he accuse the famous conservationist — who has announced his intention to form an opposition party — of being a racist, a colonialist and an atheist backed by the Ku-Klux-Klan on a mission to recolonise Kenya for whites?

According to Mr Moi, he is also a land-grabber, an ignoramus, a useless administrator, and may be plotting a military coup against Kenya's democratically elected Government, in cahoots with Italian businessmen, shady Mozambicans, and a guerrilla army based in Uganda.

Only three weeks after announcing his entry into politics against the ruling Kenya African National Union, and almost two years before the next general election, 50-year-old Dr Leakey has sent President Moi into hysterical fits of vitriol. Is this because he is white? Or because the President, a grandmaster of the political game, realises that Kenyans, like all Africans, might leap at any alternative to the "politics of the belly" which has leaders gorging themselves?

With the exception of Nelson Mandela and possibly Ghana's Jerry Rawlings and Uganda's Yoweri Museveni (for whom the juries are still out), Africa's leaders are universally loathed. Thousands of voters walked for two or three days through fields thick with mines to vote in Angola's 1991 elections, only to see their country plunged back into civil war because Jonas Savimbi was a bad loser. Kenyans were thwarted by an opposition that divided the protest vote between three tribally based parties and let Mr Moi squeeze back in with the mandate of a third of the electorate in 1992. Worse horrors have struck Liberia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Burundi and Somalia.

In four years of writing about Africa, I have conducted a poll among the hundreds of taxi-drivers I have hired. "Would they like to see their country returned to the days of colonial rule?" They give the same answer every time: "Yes."

This isn't genuine affection for the good old days. More than 50 per cent of Africans are under 18, and few remember the colonial era. But 30 years of independence and billions of pounds of foreign aid have brought economic collapse and spiralling insecurity in the "safest" capitals on the continent.

The continent's ills are rightly put down to the problem of tribalism. What is less often said is that Africa's leaders have deliberately harnessed and inflamed ethnic rivalries to gain power, stuff their pockets, and run.

So Dr Leakey's white skin is a political asset, not because other Kenyans yearn for British rule, but because as a white he would be expected to ignore the pressures and temptations of the tribe. "Under him, we would know that no tribe would get much, but we would all get a fair share," said house-painter Johnstone Njoroge. There are many white Kenyans about whom this might not be said — many white professionals in Nairobi are crooked — but Dr Leakey is perceived as one of the nation's few genuine patriots.

A second-generation white Kenyan, he took over responsibility for wildlife by presidential appointment in 1988, and in five years he turned a chaotic racket more interested in shooting elephants than saving them into an efficient and profitable anti-poaching organisation. In 1993 he was forced to resign, shortly after losing both legs in a plane crash, because his incorruptibility brought him into conflict with cabinet ministers wanting to take chunks of game parks for private development.

Horse trading

FOR the first time ever, the Labour Party is to hold a race-meeting. It will take place on the eve of the party conference on October 1, at Brighton racecourse.

All members of the Shadow Cabinet, led by Labour's man of the people John Prescott and its top tipster Robin Cook, are expected to attend the Sunday meeting. De-

tails of the day's fun will be announced at a press conference.

All six races have found sponsors, including the Tote itself. "Our race is going to be called the Lady in Red, since all our ladies wear red," says our own Woodrow Wyatt, the Tote's chairman, who, despite his Tory leanings, applauds Labour's plan. "The chairman of the Tote may take some political views," he told me. "But the Tote itself is non-political."

True men of the turf were worried that the meeting coincides with the highlight of the French racing season, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. But they can rest assured: Labour plans to beam the races live from Longchamp.

Pastas by

DO NOT STROLL under the windows of the house by the Spanish Steps where John Keats died unless you wish to be hit by a flying dish of spaghetti. A BBC *Omnibus* crew led by Andrew Motion, who is writing a biography, has been filming at the building for a programme to mark the bicentenary of the poet's birth.

For the sake of authenticity, the

producer, James Runcie (son of the former Archbishop), ordered spaghetti to be hurled from a window of the house repeatedly. He was trying to recreate an incident in which Keats expressed huge displeasure at the poor quality of food delivered to him by a local trattoria.

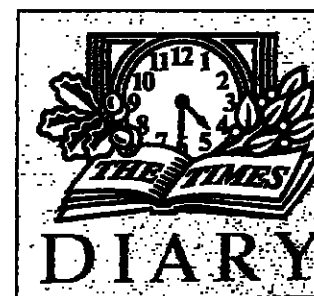
Kiss and tell

THE former American Secretary of State Henry Kissinger will soon follow in the footsteps of Richard Nixon, Elizabeth Taylor and Malcolm X, by having his life immortalised on celluloid. He is not the slightest bit pleased.

Media entrepreneur Ted Turner is backing a project to make a film about Kissinger, starring Ron Silver in the title role and Beau Bridges as Nixon. It will be based on an unflattering biography by Walter Isaacson. Kissinger persuaded an unsuspecting Silver to allow him to look at the script, and promptly sent a 30-page letter listing his objections. Turner Entertainment is now reportedly considering some revisions.

Crossed line

CONFUSION at the BBC, after it recently switched to a new switchboard. Since the change, all phone



calls to BBC Radio's Broadcasting House in central London have been diverted to a new switchboard team at Television Centre in west London.

Baffled callers have been directed to all manner of curious corners of the corporation as a result. "Some on the switchboard don't seem to know anything," says one source. "We've had operators saying they've never heard of the *Today* programme, or John Birt. The poor transport correspondent keeps getting all of the taxi bookings."

A switchboard manager is contrite. "We take around 15,000 calls a day, and it does take time for new members of staff to get used to the system. Training is ongoing."

● Prince Michael of Kent was eagerly awaited as guest of honour at the Norwich Union RAC Classic Car Run at Silverstone last week.

end. An announcement of his arrival preceded his appearance on the grand prix circuit, however, because he ran out of petrol as soon as he got through the gates.

Cleming up

POLITICS will be off the menu at a luncheon this month to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Clement Attlee's election victory. More than 100 of his descendants are gathering to celebrate, but discussion of the future of socialism will be frowned upon.

Three generations of the family will show up, ranging from nappy-wearers to those in their 70s. The clan is not devoid of political ambitions. Jo Roundell Greene, one of Clem's granddaughters, has just been elected Mayor of Beaconsfield as an Independent. But the programme at Roundell Greene's home will be a buffet lunch followed by swimming and croquet.

"We steered clear of inviting politicians of any party — just ill family and close friends," says Belinda Johnston, another granddaughter. "Not everyone follows Grandpa's socialist ideas."

Cake stand

JANE ASHER, society's Titian-haired cake-designer, has been



spotted taking her work home. Yesterday she presented her husband, the satirical cartoonist Gerald Scarfe, with a lavish cake for his 59th birthday. It was a decorative spoof of the current summer issue of the *Jane Asher Magazine*, which focuses on crafts and cooking.

To judge by the decorative icing, the celebration would have been convivial but far from refined: "I've done a picture of him holding a can of Special Brew lager," she explains. "His favourite."

P.H.S





COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY

Brussels offers disinformation on monetary union

The object of propaganda is not to persuade but to suppress dissent. Constant and exaggerated repetition of official orthodoxy eventually makes any disagreement seem perverse, absurd and, worst of all, "unrealistic". The latest example of the European Commission's willingness to sweep away the truth in pursuit of the greater good of an "ever closer union" of Europe emerged this week as a "green paper" on implementing economic and monetary union.

This 74-page document was supposed to deal with the technical minutiae of the introduction of a single currency, if and when EMU ever takes place. Instead it turned out to be the first salvo in a huge advertising and public relations campaign planned by the Commission (at taxpayers' expense) to make "people fall in love with the new currency", as Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the EU's French Commissioner for Monetary Policy, rather engagingly put it.

M de Silguy's aim is to focus so firmly on the practical details of a single currency that attention is distracted from the vital arguments about the economic conditions under which monetary union might actually occur. By encouraging businesses and financial institutions to invest heavily in the physical preparations for EMU, the Commission hopes to establish a "critical mass" of support — and to brand as Luddites all who point to the unsound foundations underlying the whole project.

In this vein, the green paper dismisses as out of touch with reality the main argument against monetary union — the permanent loss of economic sovereignty by countries which supposedly want to remain sovereign states. In a black-is-white passage which will presumably be typical of M de Silguy's imminent propaganda offensive, his paper baldly asserts: "With capital moving freely between interdependent economies, an autonomous monetary policy is no longer a

credible policy option." The certainty of this assertion seemed in no way disturbed by the fact that Britain, Italy, Sweden and Spain — not to mention Switzerland and other countries which have never even flirted with the idea of EMU — are even now following autonomous monetary policies. They will probably continue to do so even if Germany and France decide to merge their economies in 1999.

The green paper's calls for "strict adherence" to the economic convergence criteria agreed at Maastricht have a similar air of dogmatic unreality. Strict enforcement of convergence criteria is logically impossible if absolute priority is given to launching the monetary union by the target date of 1999.

For Belgium and Holland, two highly indebted countries that are certain to take part in any move to EMU, it is inconceivable that the convergence criteria will be "strictly" satisfied by the deadline for making a decision in June 1998. France, too, will be unable to satisfy the most important convergence criterion of all — that of keeping its currency within the "normal fluctuation bands" of the ERM for at least two years — since these bands were effectively abolished after the franc crisis of 1993.

The Commission's clear hope, however, is that repeating the mantra about "strict adherence" to the economic criteria for joining EMU will act as a substitute for satisfying these conditions. The German parliament will have the last word on EMU in 1998, but it may not dare to repudiate a Commission judgment that the convergence criteria have been satisfied even when they clearly have not. Experience shows that if people in authority say "black is white" often enough and loudly enough, such statements are sometimes accepted as established facts. But to base a great political project on the unthinking acceptance of propaganda invariably leads to disaster.

NO, NO, NO AGAIN

The EU must be freed from its Spanish net

Few can have expected that the ill-tempered fishing truce between Canada and the European Union would close the issue. Yesterday the captain of a Cornish fishing vessel, *The Golden Bells II*, alleged that a Spanish trawler had deliberately destroyed his nets on the seabed 100 miles off Land's End. This mid-sea fracas in British waters has once again placed fish back on the European political menu.

The incident coincided with the resumption yesterday of talks between the EU and Morocco over a new fisheries agreement. The disagreement between the two sides is so pronounced that the negotiations are now in their fourth, tense round. At stake are the rights to exploit the waters off the Moroccan coast, some of the best-stocked fishing grounds in the world. As with the dispute over Greenland halibut in the Grand Banks, Spain is here the prime mover of EU policy.

It is a dreary fact that the common fisheries policy is now almost entirely driven by Spain — the country whose oversized fishing industry, commanding one third of the bloated EU fleet, makes the policy unworkable. Of the 700 boats which fished in Moroccan waters before the expiry of the old agreement, some 95 per cent were Spanish. The agreement with Rabat is the EU's most important fishing treaty. It cost £80.3 million per annum over the last three years. Yet its benefits appear to be confined to Madrid.

Several questions arise from this, and the answer to each one must be no. Should the common fisheries policy, which costs an estimated £700 million annually, persist on a course which ensures that many more boats are kept afloat than can be sustained

by the dwindling resources to which they have access? Should Britain continue to support a policy which appears designed to secure ever-wider access for the Spanish fleet to fishing rights in non-EU waters, and for which the British taxpayer is a major paymaster? Should the EU pursue a line of negotiation with Morocco which aims to squeeze from its poorer North African neighbour a deal which serves Madrid's interests better than it serves those of Rabat?

The Moroccan case is emblematic of the way in which the common fisheries policy is organised and it is difficult not to sympathise with the Moroccans. Rabat is right to seek changes as the old agreement no longer serves its interests adequately. Each of the new Moroccan demands is unimpeachable: cuts of up to 50 per cent in the exploitation of certain over-fished species; a reduction by half of the EU fleet which would fish in its waters, and a higher fee for fishing rights than is at present paid.

Rabat would also like EU vessels to unload their catch at Moroccan ports in order to stimulate the local fisheries industry, and to employ more Moroccans as crew. An agreement which met most of these demands would not only be equitable in itself, it would also be a practical expression of the EU's new-found concern with political and economic stability in the Maghreb.

Whatever the outcome of the negotiations with Morocco, Britain must now insist that the whole question of fisheries subsidies, and the relative size of fleets, be reopened for urgent reform. The common fisheries policy is a recipe for conflict and waste. That is well understood in Cornwall: it is high time for it to be appreciated in Brussels.

THE STRAIN NOW STANDING

Let private operators put cars back on the railway

The Edinburgh court case alleging that British Rail acted illegally in its proposed withdrawal of the Fort William sleeper has lessons for officials preparing the overall privatisation programme. It serves notice that sleight-of-hand and the attempt to "tidy up" awkward services before they are offered for franchising will be resisted at every stage. The rail-using public is now thoroughly alarmed at proposed cuts in service, frequency and standards, and is determined to use the small print of the 1993 Railways Act to prevent the regulator and the BR Board from sweetening franchise offers at the expense of a public service.

The initial victory in preventing the closure of the Fort William sleeper service last month camouflaged a much more serious closure that went ahead: the loss of all Motorail services. The last trains bringing cars from the capital to Scotland drew into Glasgow and Edinburgh last weekend. A 40-year experiment to wean the public from overcrowded roads, boost the night use of rail and offer holidaymakers a smooth start to their stay in Scotland or Cornwall has ended in failure.

The closure of Motorail is all the more wailing in that it comes just when the opening of the Channel Tunnel and changing market conditions might have brought commercial reward. BR, which lost interest in the service years ago, argued that the scheme was never viable. Britain, it maintained, was too small and the market too restricted. Once there were 22 routes linking

Scotland and England, London and Penzance, the North East and the South West. By 1994 the truncated service was carrying only 30,000 cars a year, more cars than that cross into Scotland every day.

The regulator was unwilling to include Motorail and Anglo-Scottish sleepers in the Passenger Service Requirement because, he argued, it cost £6 million a year to subsidise — a large part of the total available Scottish subsidy, which could be better spent on unprofitable rural lines and commuter routes. Given the tight Treasury limits on what services will qualify for subsidy, this is a powerful argument.

What stands out in this closure is the lack of imagination of all involved. Aggressive marketing years ago could have saved the service: one has only to look across the Channel to see how French railways are promoting their motorail services. But the people who run BR never liked something that was too far from its core business; indeed, the deliberate rundown of Motorail mirrors the unenthusiastic marketing of all sleeper services, which are in danger of going the same way.

One of the hopes of privatisation is that imaginative enterprise can capitalise on the overcrowding of the roads and worries about pollution to revive Motorail. BR's history of dog-in-the-manger refusal to leave infrastructure intact for others is not encouraging. But the regulator and franchise director must guarantee that a fair hearing is given to any proposal to start again.

Sid's shares, Cedric's perks, and how the City voted

From Mr Mike Williams

Sir, As one of the many shareholders at yesterday's annual general meeting of British Gas I strongly support the conclusion of your leading article today ("Sid turns up the heat") that boards of privatised utilities must be made to realise that they are accountable, but accountable to whom?

I was persuaded, though a non-believer in such privatisation, to buy some shares in British Gas by the then Government's proclaimed intention that British Gas would still be publicly owned because ownership of it would transfer from the corporate state to members of the public as individuals.

Perhaps the Government genuinely believed that individuals would keep their shares and thus realise this intention. In practice of course many share purchasers sold off their allocation shortly after privatisation in order to make a quick profit, so ownership has effectively transferred to the financial institutions. This was clearly illustrated at the AGM.

It does not help me as a shareholder to know that the only accountability that matters to the board is to these City institutions.

I hope Tony Blair and his colleagues will see the challenge in all this for the Labour Party (and also in relation to other public utility privatisations). Though it has abandoned the commitment to full-scale public ownership, an undertaking by the Labour Party to retrieve to public ownership that part of the present ownership of the public utilities which is in the hands of City institutions as opposed to individuals would, I believe, be immensely popular.

I suspect that it would even be popular with Cedric Brown, as someone who came up through the ranks of the fully public company and who looked so uncomfortable yesterday.

Yours faithfully,
D. M. WILLIAMS,
60 Rounton Road, Church Crookham,
Fleet, Hampshire.
June 1.

From Mr David Marwood

Sir, I hold 150 shares in British Gas and attended part of yesterday's AGM. Events there, and your leading article today, saddened me greatly.

We have in British Gas one of our largest private-sector businesses, with huge scope for profitable growth overseas. A careful reading of its annual report illustrates the company's prospects for real success and the management skills being applied to achieve those prospects.

And yet, at yesterday's AGM and in your leader today, virtually all British Gas achievements so far and its opportunities for future progress were ignored. Private shareholders (but not this one) and *The Times* appear mesmerised by the pay packages of British Gas directors, especially Cedric Brown.

This is mean minded. British Gas is undergoing great structural change. From my standpoint, the executive directors deserve every penny they earn in overcoming immense challenges for the benefit of shareholders, customers, staff and the community.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MARWOOD,
36 The Ridgeway, Tonbridge, Kent.
June 1.

From Mr I. J. Dunn

Sir, Many congratulations to the art director responsible for staging yesterday's British Gas AGM at the London Arena.

The whole affair was of course an entirely cosmetic event, since all voting decisions were already in the pocket of the chairman through the block proxy votes from the City institutions.

What remained was pure theatre: Little England shaking its fist at corporate greed only to discover that in the real world minorities, however vociferous, have no say.

That is why the raised dais that accommodated the 14 middle-aged male British Gas directors so perfectly captured the essence of the meeting: a

show-trial whose defendants already knew they had been acquitted by their pals.

Yours sincerely,
I. J. DUNN,
11 St Augustine's Avenue,
South Croydon, Surrey.
June 1.

From Mr Simon Edwards

Sir, I agree with the suggestion in your leading article that the financial institutions have been shortsighted in saving the bacon of Cedric Brown and the board of British Gas. Yesterday's meeting was an ideal opportunity to reverse the adverse publicity the company has received, quite justifiably, over recent months. By all accounts the board did nothing to counter the impression of greed and arrogance, thus further diminishing their stocks of public goodwill.

Their monopoly of gas supply is coming to an end. As a commercial user of gas I have already agreed to convert to an alternative supplier. As a domestic consumer I shall do the same next year. I suspect that many others will similarly "vote with their feet".

What price British Gas shares then? Will the financial institutions have truly protected the interests of their investors? I think not.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON EDWARDS,
1 Isabella Place, 79 Church Road,
Combe Down, Bath, Avon.
June 1.

From Mr Paul Caswell

Sir, What is the moral difference between the block votes of the unions' bosses in the Labour Party and the block votes of the institutions' bosses in companies? Answer: the unions are in process of reform.

Yours etc.
PAUL CASWELL,
57 Hanson Drive, Fowey, Cornwall.

Business letters, page 27

TV and youth crime

From Mrs Mary Pettifor

Sir, I was amazed to find no mention of the influence of television in your report (May 30) on the explosive rise in youth crime.

It says: "Recorded crime (most committed by young people) increased tenfold in Britain between 1950 and 1993."

"Almost all developed countries have seen substantial increases in psychosocial disorders among youth since the Second World War."

In 1948, when television was just beginning to become popular, there were 250,000 television sets in the world. Today there are 750 million.

Could there be a link? I think so.

Yours sincerely,
MARY PETTIFOR,
St James's Buildings,
Oxford Street, Manchester 1.

On the margin

From Mr G. H. Champion

Sir, On Sunday, May 28, our 10am Communion service was conducted by an ordained woman, the sermon was preached by a woman about to be ordained, and she also read the second lesson, the first having been read by a woman. The intercessions were led by a woman.

At St Mary's, Marlborough, men are marginalised and we do not object.

Yours sincerely,
G. H. CHAMPION,
26 Town Mill,
Marlborough, Wiltshire.
June 1.

Urban perspective

From the Rural Dean of Almondsbury

Sir, If the new Bishop of St Albans, at present Archdeacon of Dorset and author of 13 published books, can be described as a "country clergyman" ... plucked from obscurity (report, May 24), where does that leave the rest of us?

Yours sincerely,
MARK THOMAS,
The Rectory, 2 Westgate,
Almondsbury,
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

May holidays

From General Sir John Hackett

Sir, I am uncertain of the current arrangements for public holidays in May, and their justification. We used to celebrate Whitsun. Now a greater emphasis is placed on another holiday (in a month which already seems to have too many) which is thought to be a celebration for workers.

I doubt the validity of this so-called workers' holiday and wonder whether we could revert to concentrating our attention on Whitsun.

If we could get rid of the recent addition to the calendar, and thus do a little to tidy up the month of May, we should be removing one of the remaining vestiges of Michael Foot foolery.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. HACKETT,
Cobley Mill,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

UK and Europe

From Mr Derek Prag

Sir, Your leader, "Back from Brussels" (May 26), indicated to me that the Government is preparing its ground well for next year's inter-governmental conference (IGC) of the EU's member states. The United Kingdom will get nothing of what we want without the intensive ground preparation that is going on in the national capitals, and the part we are playing in it.

The method you suggest — tell everyone what we want and then leave the matter "to the diplomats later to win what they can" — could only bring us public humiliation and a lashing of the Government by the media for not having got everything we wanted.

The media have in recent years shown no understanding of the give and take necessary in the EU, or indeed in any negotiations between nation states.

As for your first paragraph on "the federalist ideal", and the hope of some member states of giving it "a further boost" in the IGC, surely it is time we stopped attacking this word of many

meanings, "federal", without bothering to define it. In the EU, the federal method has meant no more than voluntary delegation of strictly defined (ie, limited) "competences" to a joint authority. In this authority, it is the Council of Ministers that takes the policy decisions.

As far as the IGC is concerned, all involved, including the Commission, have made it clear that there is no question of giving further competences to the Commission. Indeed, Jacques Santer has said quite clearly it does not want any more.

The main purpose of the IGC is to make the EU work more effectively. That is the question which we should be addressing, and it was that subject that the Commission's Secretary-General, David Williamson, addressed in his interview with your newspaper (May 27). Whether or not we agree with his remedies, at least he addressed the right problem.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK PRAG,
(Chairman, London Europe Society),
47 New Road, Digswell,
Welwyn, Hertfordshire.
May 27.

Across the globe

From Mr Tim Butchard

Sir, Your leader (May 29) about the reconstructed Globe Theatre on Bankside raises valid questions about its role in a city already replete with houses staging Shakespeare's plays.

I hope the Globe Trust will not take history to extremes: time-capsuled Hamlets and Macbeths might pall after a while, and the great playwright would surely have embraced modern stage technology with enthusiasm.

When looking for a niche other than as a museum piece the trust might consider building on what it already does well: looking outwards, as well as backwards, through international exchange. Shakespeare has never been held in such high regard around the

world as he is today. Festivals of his work are commonplace on every continent, and requests from overseas for British touring productions are incessant.

Let the theatre which was so radical and innovative in the Bard's day become so again, but now as an international centre of education and performance, staging the highest-quality foreign, as well as home-grown, productions on the smaller scale.

It is already well named for this task.

Yours sincerely,
TIM BUTCHARD
(Head of Drama & Dance Department),
The British Council,
11 Portland Place, W1.
May 31.

Angels' tots

From Mr Roger Seal

Sir, Dr Thomas Shuttford (report, May 24) was right to point out the medicinal properties of brandy, and the help it gave during a mid-air emergency operation, but his reference to the use of brandy to preserve Nelson's body owes more to historical embellishment than fact.

Sailors on board have always been unjustly accused of imbuing half the contents of the barrel of brandy used to pickle the Admiral's corpse. It is more likely and palatable that this disappearance was caused by nothing more sinister than a naturally occurring phenomenon: evaporation.

The great French Cognac producers know all about this. They call the loss *la part des anges* — the angels' share.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER SEAL,
2 St Mary's Court,
Tingewick, Buckingham.

Sports letters, page 38

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Bright future for history day by day

From Mr Gerald Isaaman

Sir, You report today, in very positive terms, the BBC's new epic project to tell the history of the British Isles in 210 episodes over the period of a year on Radio 4. It all sounds magnificent, apart from being "the most ambitious factual radio series ever to be contemplated".

Indeed, this brave idea is most welcome, given the paucity of history teaching and the fact that, as the 50th anniversary of VE-Day showed, so few young people know much about the material facts of World War Two.

Surely here is an opportunity, one hopefully still not to be missed, for a BBC series like this to be integrated into the national curriculum in a comprehensive way, for current and future use. In tape form, it could do wonders for our schools.

Certainly it ought not to be lost as a one-off event, but used constructively to create an acceptable foundation for the teaching and the understanding of our true history and heritage.

Yours sincerely,
GERALD ISAMAN,
Garrick Club,
15 Garrick Street, WC2.
May 30.

From Mr James Bourlet

Sir, *This Sceptred Isle* promises to be exciting, educational and a major contribution to our national understanding of ourselves.

No wonder Michael Green, controller of Radio 4, is "hoping that the series will become an unmissable part of the schedule".

But ... Oh dear! It will not be broadcast on Radio 4FM but only on LW198, or on MW720 in London and in those few other areas which can pick up medium wave.

It will not be at a time when most people can listen but only at 10.15 to 10.30 in the morning. And, contrary to your report, no repeats are scheduled.

What sort of censorship is this?

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BOURLET,
26 West Square, SE11.
May 31.

V & A's strengths

From Lord Armstrong of Ilminster

Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Victoria & Albert Museum

Sir, Joanna Pitman's report of her interview with Dr Alan Borg, the director-elect of the V & A (May 26), does less than justice to the achievements of the museum in recent years under the direction of Elizabeth Esteve-Coll and indeed before that.

During that time the V & A has become increasingly "visitor-friendly" inside and outside. The fabric of the building can no longer be said to be crumbling. We have in hand, as in any large and elderly building, a continuing programme of maintenance and renovation. We are working our way through a programme of major gallery refurbishment: eight new galleries completed since 1990, of which the glass, ironwork and silver galleries are only the most recent examples.

We have a vigorous programme of exhibitions, both larger and smaller: Pugin last year, William Morris next year, and many smaller exhibitions all the time, which include contemporary exhibitions like "Streetstyle" as well as more traditional types of exhibition, even though some of the contemporary ones may not please our more elitist friends.

The Wellington Museum (managed by the V&A) at Aspley House will reopen in a fortnight's time, after an extensive programme of restoration and refurbishment, and I believe that it will offer an exciting experience for all its visitors.

Visitor numbers are not the be-all and end-all, but it must in fairness be recognised that attendances have risen steadily over the last five years. Last year we had over 1½ million visitors in South Kensington. We are now back at about the levels of ten years ago, and working to increase the numbers still further.

Dr Borg will inherit from Mrs Esteve-Coll a museum which is (as he himself says) "in rather good shape", with a staff in good heart, proud of what has been achieved, and working very hard in support of the plans for continuing improvement.

There is plenty still to do, building on what has already been done, and trustees and staff alike are looking forward to doing it under Dr Borg's direction.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ARMSTRONG,
Chairman, Board of Trustees,
Victoria and Albert Museum,
Cromwell Road,
South Kensington, SW7.
May 30.

Last-minute doubt

From Mr W. H. Phillips

Sir, I am a lapsed Conservative and am 84 years of age. Our cat Sylvia, aged 17, has just had an "op" costing me £66.48, including VAT of £9.90. I now have VAT on oil and am wondering if there is the same on colfins.

I am dying to find out.

Always yours sincerely,
W. H. PHILLIPS,
Bank Farm, Meadale,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.
May 29.

OBITUARIES

CHARLES FOLEY



Charles Foley, former foreign editor of the *Daily Express* and founder-editor of *The Times of Cyprus*, died on May 30 aged 86. He was born on November 29, 1908.

CHARLES FOLEY was one of the principal players during the golden years of the Fleet Street foreign correspondent — before television ruined the game for the popular newspapers. As foreign editor of the *Daily Express* he controlled 19 staff journalists based abroad, some 300 stringers all over the world and a host of eager young reporters who came into the London office each morning with their passports at the ready and in the hope that they would finish the day in some trouble spot abroad.

Foley had two great advantages. He inherited or recruited some of Fleet Street's most famous journalists and Lord Beaverbrook, his proprietor, penny-pinching to the point of meanness in many matters, was prepared to indulge his foreign service as long as it stayed ahead of its rivals. Foley, his apparent shyness concealing innate self-confidence, ensured that it did.

Express reporters had to be first on the scene and the last to leave. When normal travel services were inadequate, then planes could be chartered; special trains would be hired and on one occasion a camel was bought for so the expenses claim said.

Foley maintained Beaverbrook's confidence to the end. When he left to begin a new and controversial career as founder of *The Times of Cyprus* he left with the proprietor's good wishes and, more important, a promise of the Express's syndication service at special rates. Most left Beaverbrook's service in less favourable circumstances.

Foley, trained as a sub-editor, had a long-standing interest in foreign affairs. He had covered the Spanish Civil War as a reporter. He was also lucky in being appointed foreign editor in 1940 when the formerly isolationist *Daily Express* was forced to look outward.

Under Foley the paper produced some of the best war reporting. Alan Moorehead's dispatches can still be read with pleasure and admiration. O'Dowd Gallagher and Selkirk

Panton — the Express had a weakness for memorable bylines — sent reports which were as colourful as they were courageous. Wilfred Burchett, later a well-known communist journalist, was first into Hiroshima after the atom-bombing and wrote the definitive eyewitness account of the devastation. Foley led an equally gifted team after the war, giving James Cameron his first big chance on a national newspaper. Sefton Delmer, the paper's specialist on Germany, with his contacts inside the intelligence and diplomatic communities, was one of the best-informed journalists of the era. René MacColl, not such a gifted writer as some of his colleagues, was unequalled for the zest and opportunism with which he outwitted his rivals.

Satellite communications were all in the future. For Foley's men — and women — it was a matter of dictating over crackling and frequently inter-

rupted telephone lines or bribing clerks at cable offices to put their copy at the top of the pile. Foley master-minded the operations with charm and panache.

Then, in 1955, he suddenly left Fleet Street. He had seen a gap in the newspaper market in Cyprus. British expatriates were served only by the *Cyprus Mail*, not in the van of modern journalism. Foley founded his own paper, used world news from the Express and Observer syndication services and used as much Fleet Street flair as was desirable.

But another factor brought Foley to Cyprus: his father, a Royal Engineer from Kerry, built bridges in what is now Pakistan, where Foley was born. As an Irishman, Foley believed fervently in the rights of a small people to self-determination. Brian had declared through a Colonial Office junior minister that Cyprus could never expect to be

independent. Foley disagreed and his paper echoed his beliefs.

He became on close terms with Archbishop Makarios, who wanted enosis, or full union with Greece. Foley's journalism was less than popular with the authorities as Makarios was exiled to the Seychelles and British lives were lost increasingly to terrorism. There were mutterings of treason and an unsuccessful attempt to charge him with subversion. His relations with the British community were not helped by his great coup when he was the first to interview Colonel George Grivas, who had led the anti-British forces, when he emerged from hiding.

In the end independence came on roughly the terms Foley had always wanted. He accompanied Makarios to the United Nations in 1958 after the Archbishop had accepted independence without enosis. But independence meant the eventual end of *The Times of Cyprus*. Foley's cause had been won but his paper's circulation declined as the British, who had liked Foley's journalism though not his politics, started leaving for home.

Foley always denied that he had received enosis funds to begin his paper. He maintained that the start-up money had all been provided by his small capital. Few who knew Foley personally ever doubted his word. What was obvious, however, was that Greek Cypriot advertising provided a substantial amount of the paper's revenue and there is reason to believe that he had received valuable assurances about this before he began his enterprise.

After his paper closed Foley lived in various countries including Greece, Italy, Spain, the United States and France. He wrote several books including *Island in Revolt* and *The Struggle for Cyprus* dealing with his own experiences. His *Commando Extraordinary* was an acclaimed biography of Otto Skorzeny, the SS officer sent by Hitler to rescue Mussolini after the capitulation of Italy. He also wrote for a number of magazines and newspapers, notably *The Observer*.

His wife, Dorothy, died in 1982. He is survived by his daughter and two sons.

DANY ROBIN



Dany Robin, French actress, died after a fire at her home in Paris on May 25 aged 68. She was born near Paris on April 14, 1927.

DANY ROBIN was arguably the most beautiful *ingenue* of the postwar generation. As a child she had dreamt of becoming a cowboy. Instead, showing early talent as a dancer, she enrolled at the Paris Conservatoire where she won first prize in 1943. "For a long time I wanted to be a virgin and a dance teacher," she later joked. She joined the Opéra but found the strict atmosphere too stifling and returned to the Conservatoire to take acting lessons. After making her first film, *Lumière* with Marc Allégret in 1944, she again walked away with the Conservatoire's highest award — this time for acting.

Her career took off and she was chosen for leading roles by the best directors of her generation. In 1946 she starred both in Marcel Carné's *Portes de la Nuit* and in René Clair's *Le Silence est d'Or*. She partnered Louis Jouvet in Henri Decoin's *Les Amoureux* and *Sous le Mont de 1947* and again in 1951 in *Une Histoire d'Amour* by Guy Lefranc. In the same year she brought a sad intensity to her role in Jean Anouilh's *Deux sous les Violettes*. Three years later she was the beautiful bohemian who seduces François Périer in André Hunebelle's *Cadet Rousselle* and the following year she played Désirée Clary in Sacha Guitry's *Napoléon*. In the 1960s she appeared in many of the popular films composed of sketches (*La Française et l'Amour* and *Les Amours Célèbres*).

Dany Robin married the actor Georges Marchal in 1950, six years after the famous playboy declared his love for her on the day Paris was liberated. After 22 years of marriage the couple divorced and she married Mike Sullivan, the Irish film producer, in 1969. That year she left Hollywood to star in Hitchcock's *Topaz*, a spy thriller in which she appeared alongside Frederick Stafford, John Forsythe, John Vernon, Roscoe Lee Browne and Michel Piccoli.

The great director kept her for three months instead of the three weeks he had promised and her new husband asked her to give up her career to devote herself to the marriage. Dany Robin agreed. She had made 74 films, sometimes working on five films a year, and had starred in 35 plays. The couple lived occasionally in London but spent most of their time in Marbella and Palma where, Dany Robin shared her husband's love of golf, painting and travelling.

The fire in which she died — and in which her husband suffered 90 per cent burns which led also to his death — took place in a Paris pied-à-terre which they were renting.

Last July, after a 25-year absence, Dany Robin once again took to the stage in Jean Anouilh's *Le Bal de Voleurs*. On the night she died, she had come to Paris to rest before travelling to Cuba to star in a television film.

Dany Robin is survived by her two children from her marriage to Georges Marchal.

F. R. W. 'LOFTY' ENGLAND

F. R. W. "Lofty" England, Jaguar racing team manager in the 1950s and chairman of Jaguar, 1972-74, died on May 30 aged 83. He was born in East Finchley on August 24, 1911.

A MAN of immense stature in all senses, "Lofty" England masterminded the great successes of the Jaguar racing team at Le Mans in the 1950s. The car's five victories in the Grand Prix d'Endurance between 1951 and 1957 established Jaguar worldwide and arguably contributed more to the success of the company than any other single factor. During his distinguished working life, England influenced the careers of drivers such as Stirling Moss, Mike Hawthorn and Jackie Stewart. Frank Raymond Wilton England moved with his parents to Edgware at the age of 14 after beginning his education in Bristol where he had been sent to avoid the Zeppelin

raids on London. In 1925 Edgware was a hive of motor industry activity. England would ride his Douglas motorcycle to watch the Bentley chassis being tested and this, together with visits to Brooklands and the Isle of Man, fired his enthusiasm for motor sport.

Between 1927 and 1932 he did an apprenticeship at Daimler's London depot at Hendon. During that time he was sent to rebuild the engine of one of the royal Daimlers in the garden at Clarence House to avoid the embarrassment of having the car towed through the streets. He also competed in the first RAC Rally, finishing second overall.

With his apprenticeship completed, he joined a new company founded by the renowned racing motorist Sir Henry "Tim" Birkin and M. C. Couper to prepare Bentleys for competition; but the company failed and in 1934 England joined the wealthy American Whitney Straight as a racing mechanic. He then had spells with ERA, Alvis, Dick Seaman and the White Mouse Garage. This last was the team run by Prince Chula of Siam for his racing driver nephew Prince Bira, for whom "Lofty" was chief mechanic. In 1935 England drove a Cotton to second place in the Manx Grand Prix.

After a further spell with Alvis, in 1941 he was accepted as an RAF pilot and sent to Texas to complete his flying training. He was seconded to the USAF as an instructor before returning to the UK to fly Lancasters.

After the war, and following a brief spell at Alvis, England joined Jaguar as service manager. When Jaguar launched the brilliant 3.4 litre XK120 sports car in 1948, no one would believe the claimed performance, an astonishing 120mph for a production model. Luckily, the British Racing Drivers Club organised a new production car race at

Silverstone in 1949 and, under England's guiding influence, Jaguars finished an easy first and second. An exploratory entry of three private XK120s at Le Mans in 1950 showed what Jaguar might achieve with their standard mechanical components allied to a lighter chassis and more aerodynamic body. Thus was the competition C-type born, with England, in the manner of those days, putting in his own time in the evenings and at weekends to develop the car.

In this way and under his cool management from the pits the Jaguar's debut was a triumph, proving of enormous benefit to the Jaguar company and British prestige. A further victory in Coronation year was even more comprehensive. Another three victories were taken at the famous French circuit with the legendary D-types.

In 1961 England was made assistant managing director of Jaguar and in 1966 promoted to deputy managing director. In 1968 he was appointed joint managing director of a group which now included Daimler, Guy, Coventry Climax and Meadows. When, in 1972, Sir William Lyons, Jaguar's founder, retired the man he had been grooming for the post succeeded him as chairman and chief executive. It was a difficult period for the British motor industry but England, together with Bob Knight, continued to champion the Jaguar cause against the suicidal centralist tactics of the British Leyland management. In 1974 he retired and adopted an unofficial role as roving worldwide ambassador for Jaguar.

"Lofty" England was a fine leader of men who won respect and admiration for his knowledge. Many Jaguar enthusiasts will feel an era has ended with his death.

His first marriage was dissolved. He leaves his second wife, Doris, and one daughter by his first marriage.

TOM BODEN

Tom Boden, OBE, farmer and deputy president of the National Farmers' Union, 1980-82, died on May 23 aged 79. He was born at Denstone Hall, Denstone, Staffordshire, on October 23, 1915.

TOM BODEN was a familiar figure in the corridors of agricultural politics. He served on the National Farmers' Union council for 39 years — a record unlikely to be beaten — and on many headquarters committees. For several years he was chairman of the milk and dairy produce and the economics and taxation committees.

He campaigned tenaciously for the industry to provide opportunities for young farmers to be able to get into farming on their own account. He pursued this objective by chairing the European Union's advisory committee on structures.

In 1954 he drafted a scheme for the supply management of milk — which became known as the Boden Plan — 20 years before the European Community adopted milk quotas to control production. He went on to serve on the Milk Quota Tribunal.

Born at Denstone Hall, which was part of the Snelson estate, Thomas Bennion Boden nearly died when he was less than a year old. He had what appeared to be a throat infection but a specialist summoned from Manchester prescribed an operation. The operation took place in August 1916 and a piece of eggshell, the size of an old three-penny bit, was extracted. Boden always proudly kept the receipt bill for £75.

During the Depression of the 1930s, which badly affected farming, he obtained a place at Nottingham University, having shone at Alton Grammar School, Uttoxeter. He hoped to become a teacher. But when his father died

suddenly in 1936 he felt obliged to return to work on the farm.

In 1939 he married Dorothy Ball, the daughter of a local Prestwood farmer, and they shortly afterwards took the tenancy of a farm a few miles from Denstone, milking 25 cows by hand. In 1947 he also took over Denstone Hall, a dairy farm, which had been in the family for 150 years. There was also a flock of sheep and a poultry enterprise. For more than 40 years he was chairman of Staffordshire Egg Producers.

One of the worst periods in farming that he encountered was the foot-and-mouth epidemic in the late 1960s. Christmas Day 1967 saw the first outbreak at Denstone: in all some 150 animals had to be put down.

His involvement with National Farmers' Union affairs took him into the complex business of agricultural politics throughout the world. The first rung having been his election as vice-chairman of the Uttoxeter local branch in 1949 and then his election as chairman the following year.

His diligence and loyalty saw him elected in 1978 as vice-president of the NFU and in 1980 as deputy president for two years.

Boden was appointed OBE in 1978. He was a member of the choir at All Saints Church, Denstone, for more than 70 years — from the age of four, he said in his autobiography — and a churchwarden as well as a keen campaigner. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1985.

His devotion to the NFU and the industry he loved was recognised in November when Staffordshire NFU and the County Agricultural Society named their new conference room "The Boden Room".

Tom Boden is survived by his wife Dorothy and their son David, with whom he farmed in partnership, and two daughters.

PERSONAL COLUMN

RENTALS
New, used, modern, cheap, fully equipped, available for hire. Contact: 01753 211111.

SERVICES
PLUMBING, PAINTING, DECORATING, etc. Contact: 01753 211111.

WANTED
ALL MAJOR CARS, BIKES, etc. Contact: 01753 211111.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
ALL DISCOUNTED, LOW COST, etc. Contact: 01753 211111.

FLIGHTS
Contact: 01753 211111.

TRAVEL
Contact: 01753 211111.

CAPITAL FLIGHTS
Contact: 01753 211111.

FLIGHTS
Contact: 01753 211111.

WORLD LINK
Contact: 01753 211111.

TRAILFINDERS
Contact: 01753 211111.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Contact: 01753 211111.

YOU HELPED US IN ASSOCIATION
Contact: 01753 211111.

action for blind people
Contact: 01753 211111.

action for blind people
Contact: 01753 211111.

YOUR WILL
Contact: 01753 211111.

PLEASE HELP US TO HELP THOSE
Contact: 01753 211111.

TIGERS EXTINCT?
Contact: 01753 211111.

THE TIGER TRUST
Contact: 01753 211111.

THE CLEARANCES of the HIGHLANDERS of SCOTLAND
Contact: 01753 211111.

ON THIS DAY
Contact: 01753 211111.

ON THIS DAY
Contact: 01753 211111.

OTISMS NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1995. Published and printed by Times Newspapers Ltd at 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XX, telephone 0171-782 5000 and at Knowsley Park Industrial Estate, Kippure Road.



INFOTECH 31-32

The gadget every home should have



ARTS 33-35

Rod Stewart is still searching for his songwriting muse



SPORT 37-44

Celtic Swing sent to challenge for French Derby

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 42-43

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JUNE 2 1995

Consumer pain spreads to factories

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

INTENSE pressure on consumers in home markets has begun to have a damaging knock-on effect on manufacturing industry, the main engine for economic recovery so far, according to the latest report from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply.

Its report for May shows a sharp drop in the pace of expansion of manufacturing industry and adds to a growing body of evidence that argues against an interest rate rise at next Wednesday's monthly monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England.

The purchasing managers' index dropped to 52.0 in May compared with 55.4 in April, largely because of a weakening in new orders from domestic markets. Exporting remained strong. Although any figure above 50 indicates that manufacturing activity is still expanding, the institute said that the movement in the index signalled a "significant slowdown in the rate of growth of manufacturing activity".

Another sign of the weakening recovery came in the institute's measures of em-

ployment. The rate of growth of the employment index slowed significantly compared with the first quarter. Although more than 15 per cent of companies increased employment, this was largely offset by more than 12 per cent of firms who cut jobs.

This evidence coincided with the Nationwide Building Society's report that house prices fell again in May, last week's downward revision to first-quarter gross domestic product growth and news of a fall in investment in the first quarter and weak mortgage

Pennington, page 25

lending figures from banks and building societies. The Halifax Building Society is today expected to back up the message from the Nationwide. All this, along with a much steadier performance by sterling, is likely to arm the Chancellor with convincing arguments against a rate rise next week. Indeed, the sterling money markets rallied strongly after yesterday's purchasing managers' release as dealers concluded that there will be no rate rise next week. Interest rate futures contracts are not

now pricing in a base rate rise as far out as December.

There are, nevertheless, residual worries about inflationary pressures that are likely to be highlighted by the Bank of England next week.

The institute said yesterday that price pressures remain strong and industry is still experiencing supply bottle-necks that could threaten higher inflation.

The price index fell to 75.8 from April's record reading of 80.6, but this was the second highest level since the survey began in June 1991. The institute said that import prices continued to be boosted by the weakness of the pound and that higher prices were being reported for a wide variety of goods in short supply including steel, paper, pulp and packaging.

However, the institute noted that even if factory gate prices continue to accelerate this year, the feed-through to higher retail prices is likely to be limited because of the weakness of consumer demand. It noted that retail sales values were growing at the slowest rate since 1981 owing to intense competition and that the housing market remains subdued.

The British report coincided with the latest one from the US National Association of Purchasing Managers, which was much weaker than expected. The index dropped to 46.1 in May compared with 52.0 in April. Analysts had been expecting a figure nearer to 50.0. The US purchasing managers' report echoed the message of the British one, although was more dramatic. New orders plunged and prices dropped, emphasising the fading of the inflation threat.

US economists are now openly speculating that US rates could be cut within the next few months amid accumulating signs that the pace of US growth has dropped sharply in response to successive rises in interest rates since last February.

The key figure today will be the latest non-farm payrolls, of intense interest after a surprise fall in job creation in last month's figures.



Patrick Haren, chief executive of Northern Ireland Electricity, which yesterday hinted that it may return £80 million to investors in a share buy-back (Report 24, Tempus 26)

Allied Domecq wine chief loses his role in shake-up

By GEORGE SIVELL

ALLIED DOMECQ is parting company with David Jarvis, the head of its wine and spirits business, after a streamlining of the group's management structure. It is expected that he will receive a pay-off of about £500,000.

The restructuring of the drinks business takes effect from September and it is envisaged that Mr Jarvis will stay on to help to "manage the process of change". Allied said: "There will be no future for the post of chief executive of Allied Domecq

Spirits and Wine, and Mr Jarvis therefore will leave the group at a time to be agreed."

Allied yesterday emphasised that the parting was "amicable". Mr Jarvis's salary is not disclosed, but like other main board directors, he is on a three-year contract. These are under review and Allied may well follow the trend towards two-year contracts.

Michael Jackman, chairman of Allied Domecq, said: "Over the last four years David Jarvis had led our spirits business to its current

position as the industry's best performer over an extended period. I take this opportunity to acknowledge his contribution and to thank him for it."

However, Mr Jarvis will be replaced by two directors on Allied Domecq's main board, George McCarthy who runs sales and marketing in the Americas, and David Scotland, who is responsible for Europe.

The restructuring includes merging the group head office in London and the Bristol office that runs wines and spirits.

Finance chief expelled by the SFA

By JON ASHWORTH

A SWISS financier who bought a car, records, books, and spent a night in a hotel on company money has been expelled by City regulators. Arthur Reynolds, former senior executive officer at Gortex Financial Products, was asked to resign in December 1993 after the irregularities came to light. He has now been expelled from the register of the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA).

Enquiries by Gortex and the SFA revealed that Mr Reynolds used company money on nine occasions to settle personal expenses, including the repayment of private loans. He bought a car, paid for records and antiquarian books, settled a hotel bill, and paid expenses for another company in which he was involved before the irregularities came to light. False invoices were generated to conceal his wrongdoing. Counterfoils on cheques contained false information.

Mr Reynolds has since repaid the firm, but his "serious disregard for the high standards of financial integrity" expected led to his expulsion by the SFA.

A former takeover specialist with Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, has also been expelled. Lawrence Merrett, a former member of the firm's acquisitions research team, was dismissed in July 1994 after it came to light that he had been conducting outside business interests without the firm's consent. The SFA subsequently discovered that a number of County Court judgments for unpaid debts were outstanding against him. He failed to co-operate with SFA investigators.

Christopher Pigden, a former eurobond dealer with Goldman Sachs, the securities house, has been reprimanded, fined £5,000 and required to pay £4,000 towards SFA costs for trying to conceal a trading loss that arose in 1993.

Mr Pigden, who has since joined another firm, was found to have taken deliberate steps to conceal a loss arising from the exercise of an option. He instructed a member of staff to record the loss over a period of time.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3945.5	(+21.2)
Yield	4.13%	
FT-SE All share	1642.33	(+9.77)
Nikkei	15394.57	(+157.78)
Dow Jones	4448.47	(-18.68)*
S&P Composite	531.25	(-2.15)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	6%	(6%)
Long Bond	112 1/8	(112 1/8)
Yield	6.63%	(6.66%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	6 1/8%	(6 1/8%)
Libor long gilt	10 1/8	(10 7/8)

STERLING

New York	1.5945	(1.5875)
London	1.5942	(1.5895)
DM	2.2912	(2.2823)
FF	7.9580	(7.8710)
Sfr	1.8572	(1.8507)
Yen	135.40	(134.22)
S index	84.5	(84.3)

DOLLAR

London	1.4155	(1.4155)
DM	1.7700	(1.7700)
Sfr	1.7700	(1.7700)
Yen	84.57	(84.57)
S index	84.5	(84.5)

TOKYO CLOSING YEN 84.9

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$17.50	(\$17.50)
--------------------	---------	-----------

GOLD

London close	\$384.05	(\$384.25)
--------------	----------	------------

Barclays U-turn leads to ceasefire

By ANNE ASHWORTH

THE Barclays staff union has suspended further industrial action after the bank made a U-turn by agreeing to a meeting on Monday.

The development came as the union, Unifi, studied a report showing that there was a chance of the strike spreading because of strong support among bank managers for a ballot on industrial action. Barclays was hit on Tuesday by a 24-hour strike of clerical workers. The action forced many branches to close. This was the first national strike in the bank's history.

Unifi officials were yesterday discussing the possibility of another one-day strike, when they learnt of the bank's change of heart.

Previously, Barclays had stated that it would not resume talks with the union. A spokeswoman for the bank emphasised that, although ready to meet union officials, it would not be reopening pay negotiations. In a message to Unifi, the bank said that its intention was to "review the events of the past week."

Unifi is demanding a 5 per cent pay increase, or £600, whichever is greater, for clerical workers. The bank has imposed a 2.75 per cent rise. Executives have received rises of up to 18.5 per cent.

A Barclays spokeswoman rejected union accusations of victimisation, saying that the bank had a no-victimisation agreement with Unifi.

Pennington, page 25

Dollar resumes slide as shares soar in Europe

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bundesbank decided to leave its key interest rates unchanged yesterday and, on the day after the most aggressive central bank intervention for a year, the dollar began to slide again.

The US currency had initially stood firm in the face of the no change decision from the German central bank. But then the dollar started reacting badly to a weak report from US purchasing managers' underlining the deceleration of the US recovery. By the European close, the dollar was trading back down at around Wednesday's closing levels of DM1.4140, having hit highs of DM1.4350 earlier. Wall Street also retreated after its record on Wednesday.

Despite this, European stock markets surged ahead. In London, the FT-SE 100 ended the day nearly 0.75 per cent higher, up 21.2 points at 3,945.6. In Germany, the Dax index closed 1.5 per cent higher and Paris stocks were also sharply up.

Sterling had a good day, despite the renewed slide in the dollar. Its effective index against a basket of currencies closed at 84.8 from 84.3

late on Wednesday. It appreciated a little against the dollar and ended nearly two pennings up on the mark.

The Bundesbank's decision was not entirely unexpected. Analysts said that it would have been highly unusual for the German bank to change interest rates on the day after a major international currency action by central banks because this would compromise its reputation for setting monetary policy for its own domestic goals.

Analysts are still betting that Germany will cut rates, possibly as early as the June 14 meeting of the Bundesbank's policy-making council. This would have the advantage of coming just before the Group of Seven summit in Halifax, Canada, where the dollar's weakness will be on the agenda.

The intervention on Wednesday, led by the US Federal Reserve, was widely interpreted as an attempt by the Clinton Administration to show its will to cope with the weakness of the dollar before the G7 meeting.

Stock markets, page 26

Warburg goes gently into Swiss night

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY



Sir David: no other choice

THE atmosphere was so congenial it could almost have been a cocktail party as one of Britain's top financial institutions was yesterday consigned to history.

A couple of the guests were funeral, however. They bemoaned the loss and asked, although the death certificate had clearly been prepared, if there had not been anything that might have saved the departed. But the majority easily had the day at a rather sedate extraordinary general meeting and it took just under 15 minutes to send SG Warburg to its buyer.

What was once Britain's premier merchant bank was laid to rest, the victim of a brutal market.

Just 126 shareholders attended the

passing of SG Warburg investment banking business to Swiss Bank Corporation for £860 million, although a spokesman for the deceased thought the turnout was good. Only four or five—the number was not recorded—dissented against the motion to sell the business.

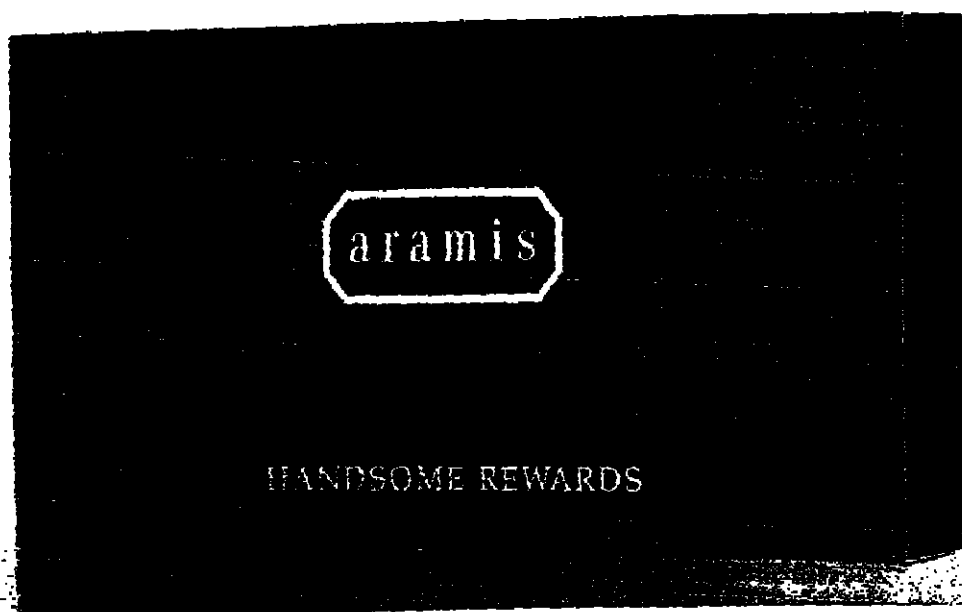
Warburg's demise followed a series of profits warnings. It revealed in figures to March 31 this year that investment banking had racked up a loss of £22.2 million. It had been clear for some time it needed radical surgery or a partner with deep pockets. It chose the latter.

At the meeting, Peter Hardy, a former senior director of Warburg's investment banking who recently retired, lamented the motion for sale. He asked Sir David Scholey, making his last appearance as

chairman, whether there had been any alternative to sale and whether he considered a price which, Mr Hardy said, represented a premium of only £60 million to net asset value, reasonable.

Sir David said that there had been no other choice. He said that to restore Warburg to health would have taken such "radical and wrenching surgery" at a time when the market may easily have undone it without a stronger capital base.

SG Warburg was founded in 1946 by Sir Siegmund Warburg. Its countdown now to becoming SBC Warburg is short. The arrangements for making its asset management arm, Mercury Asset Management, fully independent will go to shareholders next month and SBC is expected to make its payment in August.



ARAMIS FOR THE BEST DRESSED DAD!

Give him something he'll be proud to wear. Indulge him with Aramis: the classic fragrance complemented with four impeccable grooming companions, for the body, shave and face, in one great set. For Father's Day. For every day.

Available now until Father's Day for £25.00* at leading Department Stores, selected Boots and independent Chemists.

*Recommended Retail Price

aramis

Brussels approves Europe gas link

By Carl Mortished

THE European Commission has given clearance for a gas pipeline linking Britain to the Continent. The £400 million joint venture project, led by British Gas, is intended to build an underwater link between British Gas's pipelines and Continental networks.

The pipeline will be able to transport 20 billion cubic metres of gas annually. British Gas, which owns 40 per cent of the project, said that the link will initially be used for exports to the Continent because Britain currently has a surplus of gas. British Gas's entitlement to eight billion cubic metres of capacity on the link is equivalent to 15 per cent of its gas sales in the UK.

Construction is to start in autumn of next year, after conclusion of a treaty between the UK and Belgium, and the pipeline is expected to be completed in 1998. British Gas's partners include Amergas Hess, Conoco and BP, as well as Elf of France, Ruhrgas of Germany, Distrigas of Belgium and Gazprom of Russia.

Britain's oil and gas output is easing, with production declining 6 per cent from March to April, to about 4 million barrels of oil equivalent per day. However, output in April was still 9 per cent higher than the previous year, according to figures from the Bank of Scotland.

The bank estimates that oil and gas revenues fell only 1 per cent, to £45 million, in spite of the decline, which was mainly because of maintenance work on BP fields, including Magnus and Forties. Oryx Energy has sold a 15.5 per cent stake in the Alba field in the North Sea for \$270 million to Union Texas Petroleum. Oryx said the deal would help its plan to cut debt to \$1.3 billion by the year end. The price equates to about \$5.10 a barrel and represents a cash flow multiple of six times, said Oryx, of Dallas.



Nick Hodges, chief executive, has seen London International Group return to profit, at £15 million, after a £175 million loss

NIE lifts dividend and hints at share buy-back

By Carl Mortished

INVESTORS in Northern Ireland Electricity were celebrating a bumper payout yesterday with the full year dividend raised by almost 18 per cent to 13.4p and heavy hints that the company may give back over £80 million to its shareholders in a massive share buy-back.

The prospect of more cash to come from the utility, which was left with £82 million in the bank at the year end, will provide further ammunition for critics of electricity privatisations. Last month, the Government was castigated by the Public Accounts Committee for selling Northern Ireland Electricity too cheaply and the City is forecasting even more generous dividend payments from the company as it takes on borrowings and gives cash back to investors. "There is no reason why it should not raise dividends by 25 per cent," predicted one analyst.

The company warned of increased generating costs as David Jefferies, chairman, announced a rise in pre-tax profits from £73 million to £86

million, after a 3 per cent increase in sales. Most of the profits gain came from efficiencies — costs fell by 7 per cent in real terms in the year to March 31 — with manpower numbers falling by 261 during the year and more to come. NIE has provided £10.8 million for voluntary redundancies this year which could equate to another 200 jobs lost. However, cost are rising, say the company. Gordon Woodworth, finance director

predicts that generating costs, which account for 60 per cent of the total cost of power, could rise by 25 per cent over the next four years with a net effect of 5-6 per cent per year due to higher fuel prices and a 50 per cent increase in the duty imposed by the Government on heavy fuel oils. Mr Woodworth said that cost savings would reduce the burden on consumers but tariffs would rise, he said. Mr Jefferies said that NIE's

3 per cent growth in units sold was pleasing compared with growth of only 1.3 per cent in England and Wales and he expected growth to continue from recent announcements of new inward investment. Greater demand on NIE power is expected from the Republic of Ireland after the reopening of the Interconnector.

The Republic could become a net importer of energy due to its higher growth rate and the development of the Scottish Interconnector could lead to exports of power from Great Britain to the Republic via NIE.

NIE is asking its shareholders for permission to buy back 14.9 per cent of its share capital. The company said that a decision had yet been made and would depend on circumstances at the time. "It is one way you can deliver value to the shareholder," commented Mr Woodworth. He said that the company was not shrinking its balance sheet but would be replacing cash with debt.

Tempus, page 26

Pillar buys Ulster estate

PILLAR Property Investments is increasing its exposure to Northern Ireland's thriving retail sector with the £7.4 million purchase of Clandeboye, Retail Park, in Bangor (Carl Mortished writes).

Pillar, which yesterday announced profits of £33 million for its first full year trading as a quoted company, already has interests in the Bloomfield Centre at Bangor and a retail park at Ballymena through its joint venture, PillarCaisse.

Raymond Mould, chairman, said that Clandeboye was bought on a 9 per cent yield and had excellent prospects for rental growth, with average rents of £6.50 per sq ft. "Spendings power is high; we see the retail gap between the mainland and the province closing rapidly," he said. Pillar's portfolio fell in value by nearly 2 per cent in the year to March 31, mainly due to softening bond yields leaving net assets per share at 154p. The year's dividend is 3p. Earnings per share were 3.9p.

Tempus, page 26

Siebe strongly ahead with 26% increase

By Christine Buckley

THE growth drive and global expansion of Siebe, the diversified engineering group, helped push pre-tax profits strongly ahead last year to £275.1 million, a rise of 26.7 per cent.

The company, whose chairman is Barrie Stephens, has all its divisions on a growth target of 10 per cent. Profits for the year ending April 1, 1995 were at the top end of analysts' expectations on increased turnover of 15.2 per cent to £2,146 billion. The final dividend is 8.07p (7.34p), payable on October 2, making 12.1p for the year.

Overall organic growth reached 10.2 per cent and Siebe's stringent productivity programme has also reaped rewards on its margins, which rose from 13.9 per cent to 14.4 per cent. In the important control systems division they reached 16.9 per cent, up from 16.5 per cent.

Mr Allen Yurko, chief executive and managing director, said: "It is an accelerating picture. I am still bullish going into this year despite some less than robust performances in some parts of the US economy."

Siebe has a large presence in the US, recently boosted by the acquisition of LeRoi, a compressor maker, and the purchase of a majority stake in Fabex, a fluid assemblies supplier. Its performance in other markets is proving strong, particularly in the Middle East, up 24.1 per cent to £272 million, and Far East, up 26.8 per cent to £279.9 million.

The order backlog has jumped 20.4 per cent to £642.2 million, an all-time high. Siebe plans to boost production next year.

Tempus, page 26



Stephens: Good growth

LIG wants to buy its rivals

By Neil Bennett

LONDON International Group, the Durex condom and surgical glove manufacturer, is planning to acquire rival condom producers around the world after announcing a return to profit and paying its first dividend in two years.

Nick Hodges, chief executive, said that LIG now has the financial resources to seek acquisitions after its extensive reorganisation. The group is to look at up to 30 companies around the world with between 1 and 3 per cent of the market, he said.

LIG made pre-tax profit of £15.2 million in the year to March 31, against a loss of £175 million last time, when the group took heavy provisions for reorganisation and the sale of its photo-processing division. There is a 1p dividend. LIG is expected this year to raise at least £16 million from selling its non-core businesses. Tempus, page 26

Merchant bank to advise Nirex

By Ross Tiesman
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NIREX, the state company set up to find a home for Britain's intermediate and low-level nuclear waste, has appointed a merchant bank adviser.

With large elements of Britain's nuclear industry now being prepared for privatisation, Charterhouse Bank is sure to be asked by the Nirex board to report on the prospects for a sale.

Nirex, which hopes to build an underground repository for waste near Sellafield, in Cumbria, is at present jointly owned by Nuclear Electric, Scottish Nuclear, British Nuclear Fuels and the UK Atomic Energy Authority Government Division.

Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, which between them command half the shares, are to be stripped of their oldest Magnox reactors, merged and offered for sale to the private sector in 1996, under government plans.

AEA Technology, the engineering arm of AEA, is already on course for sale this autumn. BNFL is being considered for flotation later. The sale of any of its shareholders will require the formalisation of relationships between Nirex and the other nuclear companies.

Ministers may well decide to keep Nirex in the public sector. Any sale of the company would be highly sensitive politically; at present it is conducting geological studies around its proposed Sellafield site and disposal of nuclear waste provokes protests.

Nirex currently consists largely of a team of project engineers and support staff. But if planning consent were granted, it could become a very substantial business, with a monopoly on intermediate and low-level waste disposal. Howard Hyman, a Charterhouse director, said: "We are very pleased to have won this business."

Powell Duffryn tops £36m and plans expansion

By Philip Pangalos

POWELL DUFFRYN, the industrial group that serves the transport and energy markets, plans to spend up to £50 million in the coming years expanding facilities at its Teesside and Hartlepool ports.

Powell Duffryn spent £98.4 million last December taking full control of Teesside, owner of Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority, and Humberstone Holdings, which provides services at ports including Immingham, Hull and Grimsby.

Bill Andrews, chief executive, said the proposed expansion would probably initially involve new berths to increase capacity. He estimates that the total development could be between £30 million and £50 million over at least three years, though grant support could account for up to 30 per cent of the investment.

The news came as a strong contribution from Teesside and Humberstone boosted full year profits and helped Powell Duffryn overcome the adverse effects on its fuel distribution division of a mild winter. Pre-tax profits climbed 10.5 per cent to £36.9 million in the year to March 31, as turnover advanced 8.6 per cent to £791.3

million, bolstered by Teesside and Humberstone and a "technical" £40 million boost from duty on fuel.

Profits were dented by a net exceptional charge of £3.2 million, reversing a £2.2 million exceptional gain at the interim stage, largely as a result of a decision to sell the group's loss-making French rail wagon operation.

Ports and shipping services led the way as profits jumped to £15.1 million (£9 million), on turnover of £95.8 million (£63.8 million). Storage profits also climbed, to £7.2 million (£6.9 million), but there was a fall in fuel distribution profits to £4.8 million (£7.6 million). Engineering profits continued to recover, edging up to £15.7 million (£15.4 million).

A maintained final dividend of 17p, payable on August 8, lifts the total payout to 24.8p (22.9p), from earnings of 33.7p (30.9p) a share.

Powell Duffryn has also expanded its compressor engineering operations with the acquisition by its Hamworthy Engineering subsidiary of Bellis & Morcom from Rolls Royce Power Engineering for £14 million. The shares added 6p to 544p.

BUSINESS ROUND

Eurotunnel fights duty free ruling

EUROTUNNEL, the heavily indebted operator of the Channel Tunnel, yesterday took its battle for equality with the rival ferry companies to the European Commission. The group is lodging a formal complaint with the General Secretariat of the European Commission against a decision by the European Council of Ministers to continue to allow duty free sales for travellers within the community on sea and air routes until June 1999. Eurotunnel said: "This unexpected decision works to the benefit of the operators alone, and not to the benefit of the consumers for whom it is intended."

"The significant profits derived from duty free sales for the ferry companies (direct competitors of Le Shuttle) and for the airports and airlines (competitors of Eurostar) and the numerous abuses in the application of the system, allow the ferries, the airports and the airlines huge freedoms in pricing policies, which are detrimental to Eurotunnel's interests." Eurotunnel said the decision was a blatant contradiction of the principle of abolishing fiscal frontiers under the single market.

M&G raises dividend

M&G, Britain's biggest unit trust company, suffered an 11 per cent drop in pre-tax profits in the six months to March 31, from £31.5 million to £27.58 million, in a period of flat stock markets and plunging unit trust sales throughout the industry. But revenue was virtually maintained at £37.15 million as the group continued to attract new business. The dividend is being raised by 1p to 14p, payable on July 19. This was largely due to the success of the decision in January last year to cut out all initial charges on two unit trusts. "No-load" trusts already account for 50 per cent of total business.

Airline conduct code

BRITISH MIDLAND has launched a code of conduct on the controversial issue of airline code-sharing in a response to criticisms that the practice is anti-competitive. Code-sharing is when one airline puts its own code on a flight operated by another so that passengers can be transferred, sometimes without their knowledge. It offers great benefits to airlines whose fleet would not otherwise be large enough to cover many parts of the world, but has angered passengers and travel agents who claim they or their clients may end up travelling on an airline that they have never heard of.

CSG acquisition spree

THE Corporate Services Group, the contract labour and training specialist, is raising £18 million via a rights issue to fund the acquisition of four contract labour businesses for a total consideration of £15.5 million. Investors are being offered one new share for every two held at 70p each. Existing shares fell 1p to 80p yesterday. Corporate Services is acquiring International Care for £4.6 million and PRN London for up to £5.35 million. The company is also buying Pipoo for £4 million and Able for £1.5 million to enlarge the existing technical contract labour operations.

Setback for Lookers

POOR new car sales led to a disappointing second quarter at Lookers and took a toll on first-half profits at the Manchester motor distributor. Closure costs also contributed to a reversal in pre-tax profits to £2.44 million in the six months to March 31, down from £3.09 million last time. Turnover edged up by just over £1 million to £188 million, reflecting a fall in new car retail sales, though used car sales improved. There is an improved dividend of 2.5p (2.4p), payable on September 29, in spite of a drop in earnings to 5.1p (7.8p) a share. Gearing fell to 26 per cent.

Pilkington in Poland

PILKINGTON, the British glassmaker, yesterday opened a \$170 million float-glass factory in Poland that is expected to produce 140,000 tonnes of glass a year. Located in the southern city of Sandomierz, Pilkington Sandoglass is Poland's sole producer of float glass for car windscreens and office construction. Pilkington owns 40 per cent of the company after investing more than \$25 million and guaranteeing \$107 million in loans from international and domestic banks. Two divisions of the World Bank have bought equity and each control 15 per cent stakes.

MONEY MARKET BUSINESS CHEQUE ACCOUNT

High interest rates Instant access Open 8am-8pm

Balance	Gross CAR %*	Gross %*
£250,000 +	6.70	6.50
£25,000 - £249,999	5.58	5.25
£10,000 - £24,999	5.12	5.00
£2,500 - £9,999	4.59	4.50

Bank of Scotland Money Market Business Cheque Account offers the simplicity of one account, with high interest paid monthly on your balances, competitive bank charges and instant access to your money with our Threadneedle Street, London cheque book. Interested?

Then phone one of our Banking Managers free on 0500 828 000 Monday to Friday, or return the coupon below to Bank of Scotland, Money Market Accounts Centre, Freeport, Edinburgh EH11 0NR.

Please complete and return to: Money Market Accounts Centre, Freeport, Edinburgh EH11 0NR.

Name _____

Position _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

Tel no. _____

BANK OF SCOTLAND
SERVING BUSINESS SINCE 1695

TIM 04

* Gross - paid without deduction of basic rate income tax to those who qualify.
* CAR (compounded annual rate) - the gross rate achieved after the effect of a 10% initial charge on the account and half rate interest.

IT PAYS TO TALK

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

Solicitors' and legal office Exhibition

The Barbican Exhibition Centre, London EC4

Tuesday 6th June 9.30am-6.00pm
Wednesday 7th June 9.30am-7.30pm
Thursday 8th June 9.30am-5.00pm

Call 0181-742 3399 for tickets or entry is free with a business card

HADFIELD INVESTMENTS
NO 1 LIMITED (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company number 300106
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF HADFIELD INVESTMENTS NO 1 LIMITED
On the 25th day of May 1995 the company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and the liquidator was appointed. The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at No. 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9LQ, by 30 June 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution. The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full. Dated 30 May 1995
A V Lomas
Liquidator

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
COMPANIES ACT 1985
PARTNERSHIP LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 86 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the Creditors of the above-named company will be held at 10, Old Broad Street, London EC2M 1JH, on 13 June 1995 at 10.30am, for the purpose of considering the proposed arrangement for the company's affairs. The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at No. 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9LQ, by 30 June 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution. The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full. Dated 30 May 1995
A V Lomas
Liquidator

TO all whom it may concern
TAKE NOTICE THAT WE, Albert Lippa and Linda Lippa, of 28 Royal Close, Manor Road, London N16 8PE, and Maria Macdonald, of 48 Brunswick Street, London E1 6AN, have been appointed liquidators of the above-named company. The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at No. 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9LQ, by 30 June 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution. The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full. Dated 30 May 1995
A V Lomas
Liquidator

TO all whom it may concern
TAKE NOTICE THAT WE, Albert Lippa and Linda Lippa, of 28 Royal Close, Manor Road, London N16 8PE, and Maria Macdonald, of 48 Brunswick Street, London E1 6AN, have been appointed liquidators of the above-named company. The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at No. 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9LQ, by 30 June 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution. The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full. Dated 30 May 1995
A V Lomas
Liquidator

HEALTHSAFE EUROPE LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 86(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the Creditors of the above-named company will be held at 10, Old Broad Street, London EC2M 1JH, on 13 June 1995 at 10.30am, for the purpose of considering the proposed arrangement for the company's affairs. The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at No. 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9LQ, by 30 June 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution. The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full. Dated 30 May 1995
A V Lomas
Liquidator

LEGAL, PUBLIC COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION
PLEASE TELEPHONE
071-782 7344
FAX 071-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

□ Giordano and Brown on a PR warning □ Caution demanded of celebrating Chancellor □ Banking on talks with union

Gas board on probation

□ NO-ONE should be too surprised at the outcome of the various polls conducted at the end of British Gas's vituperative annual meeting.

A single institutional investor, Prudential, commands more shares in British Gas than all the 4,500 shareholders who packed the company's annual meeting this week. The Pru owns 3.5 per cent of British Gas. It owns 3.5 per cent of all the shares quoted on the London Stock Exchange.

With the pension and insurance cash of millions of British citizens at their command, the Pru's professional fund managers have the muscle to call the shots in Britain's boardrooms. They are part of an exclusive club, made up of fund managers from a few score institutions, that must take much of the blame for any failure in British corporate governance.

The poll results, announced last night, clearly show that only around half the shares in British Gas owned by institutions were actually voted. By annual meeting standards, that is not a bad turn-out. But in this case, it is either a protest, or a dereliction of duty.

The former is more likely.

Institutional fund managers claim a chameleon character: shy of the limelight, but brutally outspoken behind closed doors when the company chairman

comes to call. "British Gas have had just as hard a time privately as they did at the annual meeting," said one.

Institutions have every cause to be angry. Small investors clearly link disquiet over pay rises with unsatisfactory service standards. Regulatory intervention has crippled the profitability of British Gas and reduced the value of institutional investment.

The board's failure to defuse the pay row has increased the risk of further regulatory intervention. Fund managers do not like these failings that are damaging the value of their investment. But they do firmly approve of the new sense of strategic direction given to British Gas by the Giordano/Brown team. The company is at last moving to cut costs, meet the challenge of growing competition and develop an overseas arm to compensate for diminishing opportunities at home.

Because of the pay row, this is not reflected in the share price. The failure, as institutions perceive it, is not strategy, but public relations. Fund managers have given the board a few clear

pointers about how this might be addressed. The chairman of the remuneration committee must be capable of standing up to Mr Giordano, they say. The bonus scheme looks too easy. A rethink in 12 months time, would be appropriate.

Giordano and Brown are on notice to start winning the PR battle. They must also start delivering to the stock market. Institutions have given them the benefit of the doubt, thanks to Mr Giordano's insistence that Wednesday's events were a vote of confidence in him and his team. They now expect their confidence to be fully rewarded.

No time for Clarke to be contrary

□ KENNETH CLARKE has much reason for celebration as he returns from proselytising the Indians to privatisation and prepares for next week's meeting with Eddie George.

Virtually every economic statistic since his controversial meeting with the Bank in May has gone spectacularly his way.



Far from being revised upwards, as many City analysts had expected, first quarter gross domestic product was revised downwards. Added to this, gloom on the housing market has been unmitigated and the run on the inflation threat from industry have brightened. Last week, the CBI pointed to an easing of such pressures. Yesterday, purchasing managers did the same.

But the international scene has also come to Mr Clarke's aid. In spite of the dollar's wobbles, the pound has done quite well. More important, the sharp sharp slowdown in the US economy, underlined yesterday by an American purchasing managers' report, is heightening speculation that US

rates will next be cut. It seems only a matter of time, too, before German rates are cut again as exports are hit by the strong mark. If rates elsewhere are heading downwards in response to faltering growth, it would surely be perverse for Britain to raise them in the face of its own slowdown.

Midland Bank will this week-end change its forecast for base rates. It has been predicting a peak of 7.75 per cent but now believes that the peak has already been reached and that rates will be cut sometime next year. The financial markets agree. Interest rate futures as far out as December are predicting no change in interest rates.

It cannot be excluded that Mr Clarke might allow himself the delicious fun of confounding the markets two months' running and raise interest rates in the face of the economic evidence.

But a taste for contrarianism would not work in his favour. A rate rise next week would only convince his sceptics that the May decision was a political one, taken amid the rubble of the Tory election results. And why

change tack when original decision was obviously right? Finally, a rate rise could genuinely threaten the recovery.

Barclays staff stand Unifi

□ BARCLAYS' belated decision to go back to the negotiating table with its striking staff is an impressive victory for the banking unions. Most bank strikes tend to be lame affairs that fizzle out after the staff make a token protest and their employers offer a token sweetener to their previous pay offer.

This time both the staff union and the Barclays have become deeply entrenched in their positions. Barclays may deny it, but Tuesday's strike caused it all sorts of damage. The back-log of unsettled cheques and payments created a great deal of disruption when business began as usual on Wednesday morning.

There is also the unquantifiable damage done to the image of the bank among its customers. Service industries generally live in fear of picketing and disruption.

What is worse for Barclays is that its customers seem, anecdotally, to sympathise with the striking bank staff. Many showed their support by using rival banks' cash machines at no small cost to Barclays.

The threat that the strike may spread seemed to be the final straw that forced Barclays to reopen the lines of communication with its staff. The bank is using weasel words to deny that it is reopening pay negotiations but it is hard to see what else the two sides could have to discuss beyond the weather. If Barclays' statement means it believes it can resolve the dispute by laying down the law to its staff, then it faces a very rude awakening. Unless it receives something tangible for its efforts, Unifi is hardly likely to postpone its next action for long.

Tour of duty

□ JUDGING from the tone of yesterday's plea to Brussels, Eurotunnel is desperate to stop ferry companies using profits on duty-free to subsidise discounts on tickets. Given Sir Alastair Morton's confession to shareholders this week that the bankers would soon be breathing down his neck again, one can understand the desperation. And complaining was never one of Sir Alastair's weaknesses.

Shares in Boots fall as profit increases

By SARAH BAGNALL

SHARES in Boots, Britain's biggest chemist, fell 8p to 510p yesterday in spite of healthy growth in pre-tax profits and a 13 per cent rise in dividend.

The increase in profits before tax and exceptional items from £484.8 million to £525.6 million in the year to March 31 was in line with analysts' forecasts of between £520 million and £529 million. Sales were £4.3 billion, up 3.4 per cent.

With exceptional gains included, profits doubled to £849.7 million. Boots made £47 million profit on the sale of Farley's and a £273.1 million profit on selling its pharmaceutical arm to BASF.

Sir Michael Angus, chairman, said that the company ended the year with net cash of £517 million, expected to rise to £600 million as further proceeds came from selling the pharmaceutical business. Analysts expect the businesses to generate a further £100 million cash this year. He said Boots was seeking acquisitions to build up its over-the-counter medicines operation. However, if the right company at the right price fails to materialise, Boots would consider buying back more shares.

Boots The Chemist lifted profits 4.8 per cent, to a record £349.7 million. Profits from Halfords rose 41 per cent, to £20.5 million. Analysts were disappointed by AG Stanley, which, with higher than expected development costs in Boots Healthcare International, led to £30 million coming off current-year forecasts.

An 11.6p final dividend, due on 23 August, makes 17p, up from 15p.

Options and, page 1
Tempos, page 26

Hogg Robinson pays £58m for Swedish agency

By MARTIN BARROW

HOGG Robinson is acquiring Bennett Travel, a business travel agency based in Scandinavia, for £58.5 million, it was announced yesterday.

The acquisition of what is believed to be the world's second oldest travel business after Thomas Cook, is to be part-funded via a £25.3 million share placing and open offer.

The company is offering one new share for every four held at 160p each. Yesterday, existing shares fell 5p to 175p. British Airways has agreed to subscribe for its full entitlement of new shares in respect of its 12.24 per cent interest in the company.

Bennett Travel, established by a Briton in 1850, has operations in Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland, and in 1994 is believed to have accounted for more than 15 per cent of all business travel reservations in the Nordic region.

The company is a member of Business Travel International (BTI), the international business travel management company of which Hogg Robinson is a founding member and currently in charge of operational management. BTI has 44 business travel agencies in 61 countries; members include Hapag-Lloyd Reisebüro in Germany, Kuoni Travel of Switzerland, Holland International Travel and BTI Americas Inc.

Bennett has approximately 1,000 employees in 150 locations throughout Scandinavia. In 1994, the company earned profits of SKr4.9 million (£5.6 million) on sales of SKr4.7 billion. Net assets were SKr46.2 million at the year-end. The company is being sold by Volvo, which is in the process of disposing of all non-core interests.

Brian Perry, chairman of

Hogg Robinson, said: "This is a major move within the overall business travel sector and should greatly enhance our international positioning."

"There is a growing trend for multinational companies to require consolidation of their worldwide travel expenditure through a single supplier. We believe we are well-equipped to meet this need."

Yesterday, Hogg Robinson also announced financial results for the year to the end of March, showing a decline in pre-tax profits to £14.3 million from £21.48 million.

However, excluding exceptional items profits came in at £17.4 million, rising from £16 million in the previous 12 months. This excludes the impact of an exceptional charge of £3.1 million against restructuring and disposals, compared with a net credit of £5.4 million, reflecting a profit on the disposal of the leisure travel business.

The company is paying a final dividend of 4.65p, due August 11, lifting the total payment to 7.6p from 7.1p. Ongoing businesses delivered

earnings per share, excluding exceptional items, of 15.97p, compared with 15.31p. Overall earnings were 11.82p a share, down from 23.49p.

Profits from business travel advanced strongly to £7 million from £4.58 million, while transport, which is engaged in trailer and logistics and freight forwarding, rose to £5.8 million from £4.76 million. Financial services, operating in a difficult market, held profits almost unchanged at £6 million, compared with £5.7 million.

Thomas Cook announced discounts of up to 40 per cent off summer holiday prices. The company's customers can get £110 per person off selected 14-night breaks to five popular European sunspots. The discounts apply to adult prices on breaks in Majorca, Menorca, the Portuguese Algarve and the Greek islands of Corfu and Kos. They are valid for departures between July 10 and September 3. The move follows last week's initiative by the UK's biggest travel agents, Lunn Poly, which cut £100 off many June holidays.

Brown & Tawse £30m rights to buy Kwikform

BROWN & TAWSE, the distributor of industrial products, yesterday unveiled ambitious plans to acquire GKN's Kwikform scaffolding subsidiary for up to £33 million (Our City staff writes).

The final consideration, subject to adjustment once profits for 1995 are known, compares with B&T's market capitalisation of just £13.6 million when its shares were suspended at 42p yesterday.

The company will fund the acquisition through a rights issue of new shares, underwritten by Hill Samuel, to raise £30 million. A total of 108 million new shares are being issued at 30p each by the company, which proposes to change its name to Bandt.

The proposed acquisition was unveiled as B&T reported pre-tax losses of £2.4 million for the year to April 2, reduced from £3.8 million in the previous year, on turnover of £76 million (£94 million). Losses

were 7.4p a share (8p). There is again no dividend. Don McFarlane, B&T chairman, said the market for the company's tubes, fittings and pipe products will remain flat in volume terms for the rest of 1995. The acquisition of Kwikform is the brainchild of Richard Wilson, chief executive of B&T, who was formerly



McFarlane: shares halted



Richard Cole-Hamilton, left, with David Michels, chief executive of the Stakis group

Hotels help Stakis to 73% rise

By PHILIP PANGALOS

ACQUISITIONS, a good performance from hotels and lower net interest costs helped Stakis, the Glasgow hotels and casinos group, to a 73 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £11.5 million in the half year to April 2.

Turnover, boosted by acquisitions, rose to £82.8 million (£70.7 million).

A greater number of hotels and increased room and occupancy rates helped operating profits from the group's 39 hotels to increase by £3.1 million to £13 million, but profits from the 24 casinos dipped to £6.5 million (£6.7 million). The company believes the National Lottery had an indirect effect, while attendances fell and the gaming win percentage dipped to 18.3 per cent (18.7 per cent).

Richard Cole-Hamilton, the chairman, said general market conditions in the hotel sector seemed to be improving and the group's overall prospects looked good.

There is an increased interim dividend of 0.75p (0.65p), payable on September 7, from earnings ahead 31 per cent to 2.03p (1.55p) a share. Mr Cole-Hamilton added: "Overall prospects for continued improvement look good."

Net interest costs fell to £5.6 million (£7.3 million), with gearing standing at 33 per cent at the half year.

Record sales and profits. The result of world-class engineering.

Preliminary results for the year ended April 1, 1995	1995	1994	% Change
Turnover	£1,146 billion	£1,864 billion	+15.2
Profit before tax	£275.1 million	£217.2 million	+26.7
Earnings per share	37.5p	31.4p	+19.4
Final dividend	8.87p	7.34p	+18.0

"These excellent results, which demonstrate strong organic growth, are not just due to the improved world-wide economic environment but are also derived from market share growth, keen cost control and continuous product innovation. Recent acquisitions also played a part. To support our accelerating sales growth programmes, we have allocated a record level of capital spending for the next fiscal year of £165 million. For the first time in nearly a decade, much of this spending will be on increasing production capacity. With order backlog up 20.4% we have started the current year in a strong position and encourage the national economies which we serve continue to prosper further our policy of substance and ongoing investment in research and development together with the opportunities available to us from recent acquisitions, give us significant confidence in the continuing success of the Group. We have an exciting future as we press forward towards our goals and envision our position as one of the world's leading engineering groups. Indeed, Siba is a company eager to be a world leader in its chosen markets."

Barnes Stephens, Chairman

SIEBE THE ENGINEER. HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE.

TOTAL

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS PAYMENT OF DIVIDEND

The Annual General Meeting of Shareholders held on May 30, 1995 has set the 1994 dividend at FF 8.00 per share. A tax credit of FF 4.00 will be added to this dividend.

Payment of the dividend, the amount of which will be dependent on the terms of the double tax convention between France and Great Britain, will be settled upon presentation of the coupon and completion of form RF 4 GB.

Residents may lodge this form with the Bank acting as their agent, either in France or in the United Kingdom, at any time up to December 31 of the second year following the collection date of the coupons. As a result of French legislation on the "dematerialisation" of securities, payment of the coupons will be made through the banks with which the securities have been deposited.

The Annual General Meeting has decided to offer each shareholder the option to receive the 1994 dividend either in cash or in shares. The issue price of such shares - carrying dividend and voting rights effective from January 1, 1995 - has been set at FF 277.0 per share.

Shareholders opting to receive the dividend in the form of shares will be required to make such election between June 6, 1995, the dividend record date, and June 30, 1995.

Any shareholder who has not made such election by June 30, 1995, shall automatically receive the dividend in cash, payable as of July 21, 1995.

TOTAL - 24 Cours Michéle - codes 47, 93069 Paris la Défense, France



STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Fisons near to launching agreed bid for Medeva

IT LOOKS as if Fisons may be close to launching its agreed bid for rival Medeva following several months of negotiations.

Talk in the Square Mile last night claimed that Fisons had finally agreed terms with Medeva and would be ready to move shortly. The Medeva share price responded with a rise of 3p to 248p as more than 3 million shares changed hands, stretching its lead during the past two days to 11p. By contrast, Fisons, which has raised £500 million this year after disposing of two of its businesses, eased 1p to 174p.

Speculators say Fisons is ready to make an offer with a mixture of cash and shares valued at between 250p and 260p. This would give Medeva a price tag of around £750 million.

Elsewhere, share prices in London were quick to take their lead from Wall Street's strong performance overnight, prompted by central bank support for the dollar and evidence of a further slowdown in the US economy. This has revived hopes that the next movement in interest rates on both sides of the Atlantic will be lower.

At one stage, the FT-SE 100 index soared almost 34 points with bonds also sharply higher. But a hesitant opening for share price last night in New York took some of the shine off London's performance. Even so, the index ended the session 21.2 up at 3,340.6 as turnover grew to 666 million shares.

A steadier performance by the dollar following this week's intervention by central banks was good news for those companies with an international flavour. There were gains for Zeneca, 12p to 948p, RTZ, 8p to 812p, BAT Industries, 5p to 497p, and Reuters, 7p to 478p.

WPP Group, the advertising agency, stood out with a rise of 8p to 131p in heavy turnover as more than 12 million shares changed hands. Smith New Court, the stockbroker, was said to have been responsible for much of the business and may be catering for a big US buyer of the shares.

Hanson traded 2p better at 232p after completion of the demerger of US Industries, which has been floated separately on Wall Street.

Allied Domecq responded positively to the news that it plans to merge its struggling



Plans to merge divisions cheered Allied Domecq shares

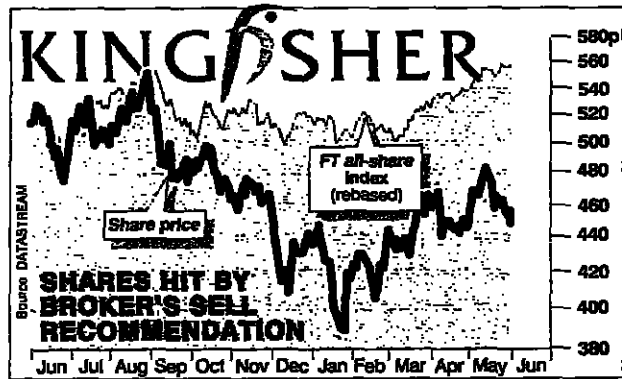
wine and spirits businesses. Domecq and the former Hiram Walker. The shares ended the session 5p better at 538p.

Whitbread has taken advantage of the market's strength to dispose of some of its investments in rival companies. HP Bulmer, the cider maker, dropped 9p to 445p after Whitbread sold its entire

Shares of Securicor maintained their recent strong run. The ordinary shares rose 10p to a high of £15.85 and the "A" 13p to a record £10.07. There is talk in the market that BT wants to buy the 40 per cent of Cellnet — the mobile telephone network owned by Securicor — that it does not already control.

5.44 per cent holding for an undisclosed price. It has also sold similar stakes in Joseph Holt, unchanged at £31.73, and Hardys and Hanson, steady at 256p. Whitbread firmed 2p to 596p.

Boots dipped 7p to 511p after failing to cast light on how it intends to use its £517 million of surplus funds, which is now expected to reach £700 million by the end of the current year.



Shares hit by broker's sell recommendation

compared with the previous year's deficit of £175 million.

Northern Ireland Electricity jumped 14p to 368p, cheered by the decision to raise the payout to shareholders by almost 2p to 13.4p.

The group is to ask for shareholder approval to buy back up to 14.9 per cent of the shares. Pre-tax profits last year rose almost 16 per cent to £86.8 million in spite of being held back by provisions totalling £12.1 million.

Siebe, the engineer, celebrated a sharp jump in full-year profits with a rise of 20p to 621p. Brokers who went on a tour of the group's US operations recently came back impressed.

Powell Duffryn also responded positively to a healthy profits improvement with a rise of 6p to 544p.

News of difficult trading conditions at its casino operations, which saw profits decline, left Stakis 2p easier at 86p. The group said the National Lottery, in particular the new scratch cards, may have had an adverse effect. This did not stop pre-tax profits last year climbing 73 per cent to £11.5 million helped by hotels and recent acquisitions.

GILT-EDGED: Prices responded positively to the latest numbers from the US. These showed a further slowdown in the American economy with the purchasing managers' index dropping to its lowest level since May 1991.

Bond prices in London closed below their best of the day, having briefly come within a whisker of the high for the year.

In futures, the June series of the Long Gilt touched £108.93 before finishing £108.92, better at £108.92. Turnover dropped to 39,000 contracts as investors began switching into the September series, where a further 24,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 jumped £2.92 to £101.4, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £17.52, better at £17.52. Index-linked issues scored gains of up to 1/4p.

NEW YORK: Wall Street investors went on the defensive in early trading when the lower than expected US purchasing managers' survey for May rekindled fears of a hard landing for the economy. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 18.68 points at 4,446.47.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	4446.47 (-18.68)
S&P Composite	531.25 (-2.19)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	15994.57 (+157.70)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9599.74 (+152.30)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	434.95 (+4.43)
Sydney:	
ASX	2021.0 (+1.51)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2126.38 (+34.21)
Singapore:	
SEAC	2285.03 (+26.67)
Brussels:	
General	7714.62 (+49.79)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1960.80 (+12.35)
Zurich:	
SWX Index	658.00 (+8.60)
London:	
FT 100	3340.6 (+21.2)
FT 100 Mid 250	3674.6 (+21.0)
FT-SE 100	1660.9 (+10.4)
FT-SE 100	174.30 (+19.8)
FT A All-Share	1652.3 (+4.7)
FT All-Share	176.91 (+4.8)
FT 100 Index	113.55 (-0.13)
FT Govt Sec	94.61 (+0.30)
Barclays	366.2
SEAC Volume	105
USM (Datastream)	156.83 (-0.36)
USM	1.9912 (-0.0015)
German Mark	2.2846 (+0.0191)
Exchange Index	94.8 (+0.45)
Bank of England official close (approx)	1.230
ECU	1.212
US\$	0.7178
YEN	149.0
1990 Apr 13.3% Jan 1997-100	

RECENT ISSUES

Brit Aero Cap Us P/P	720	+2
Dumyatt IT Cr An Div	105	...
Dumyatt IT Cr An Div	105	...
Finbury Worldwide	101	...
General Cable (190)	173	+2
Gus Carter (80)	92	...
Langdon Foods (3)	92	...
Oxy India	650	...
Oxy India	650	...
Precoat Int (125)	141	...
Schroder Inc Gth Div	107	...
Schroder Inc Gth Wts	22	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Daniels (5) n/p (34)	30	+12
Prime People n/p (4)	1	...
Regal Hotel n/p (35)	1	...
Sci/New Non-Int n/p	35	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Hamleys	237p (+10p)
Mays	359p (+20p)
Security Serv	800p (+20p)
Lamont	400p (+47p)
PEO	625p (+11p)
Zeneca	948p (+12p)
Land Sec	635p (+11p)
Rowlinson Secs	138p (+10p)
Carlton Comm	954p (+8p)
BAFAP	459p (+12p)
Yorkshire TV	478p (+8p)
Shell	781p (+9p)
Granada	599p (+10p)
Siebe	622p (+21p)
Trinity Holdings	371p (+10p)
Reckitt & Colman	672p (+12p)
Danka Bus Systems	385p (+13p)
European	459p (+8p)
Mitel	308p (+12p)
Wardle Stores	375p (+35p)
Jardine Math	506p (+15p)
FALLS:	
WH Smith	343p (-9p)
HP Bulmer	445p (-9p)
ADT	710p (-10p)
ADT	710p (-10p)
Carlyle	240p (-5p)
Kellogg Ind	433p (-22p)
Aus New Z Bank	215p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 28

TEMPUS

Filling its Boots

BOOTS is at the crossroads. Left is the beckoning lights of the over-the-counter drugs market, a tantalising, fast growing arena with the allure of high returns. Right is the share-buy-back route, a track that Boots has already stomped along having spent £500 million last November in purchasing about 10 per cent of its equity. The straight ahead option is to drive profits from its current operations.

Its businesses are highly cash generative and having sold the pharmaceutical business last year, Boots is sitting on £517 million in cash which is forecast to grow to £700 million by the end of the year. Funding is not the problem, finding a use for it is.

Boots can earn 7 per cent on its cash if it invests short-term in the money markets. The OTC could be put to better use by buying an equity company, but while the world market is

highly fragmented, Boots is not alone in seeking for acquisitions. Since Halfords and Boots International Healthcare have the best long-term growth prospects of the group's current businesses, the logic of expanding in OTC is sound. But there is a danger that it will have sold the pharmaceutical division at the bottom of a cycle and now may buy an OTC business at the top.

If the right company cannot be found at the right price then a share buy-back is likely. That however is likely to be delayed until next year. Either way shareholders win, provided Boots does not do something silly and pay too much for an OTC business that it dilutes earnings. Given the meagre returns on cash at present, that would be difficult. Once the future of Boots' wealth is decided, the shares could be due for a re-rating.

Siebe

SIEBE's acquisition preferences are ambitious, but prudently executed. It is achieving excellent growth without straining cash flow and has the resources to bolt on further specialist instrumentation acquisitions in an expanding market.

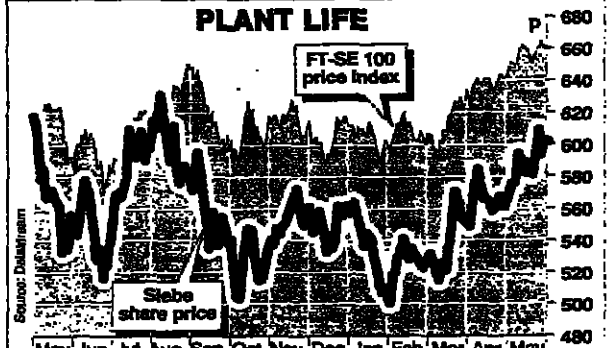
Automation is an increasing trend worldwide, and the company is making convincing improvements in market share. It has achieved sustained expansion in the US, the Middle East and the Far East. Both the developing markets and the developed ones are showing an appetite to automate, particularly as economic recovery is prompting renewed investment in plant and machinery. Currently, Siebe is running hard to keep up with demand. Its order backlog has risen 20

per cent, which is forcing the group to increase production capacity.

Siebe's management has made tough demands on productivity and the company stands out in a sector where margins are often vulnerable. Operating margins moved up last year from 13.9 per cent to 14.4 per cent. Shareholders pay for the

growth, however. The dividend rose only half the rate of earnings last year, pushing cover to 3.1.

But although the yield on the shares is a scant 1.6 per cent, the long-term capital growth prospects are undimmed. The shares stand on a prospective p/e ratio of 14, which does not look overpriced.



Northern Ireland Electricity

NORTHERN Ireland Electricity will get a rough ride from the regulator next year but the company still looks like a honeypot for investors seeking income. Privatized with no debt two years ago and a lenient tariff regime, the company has improved its profitability with cost-cutting and redundancies, measures that the Government a few years ago believed would be unthinkable for a Northern Ireland utility.

NIE knows it will get clobbered next year but yesterday gave a strong signal to investors that it is determined to keep up the pace on dividends. Having lost its bid for the cable TV franchise, NIE has little reason not to mount a big share buy-back which — assuming it buys in the maximum of 14.9 per cent — should enhance earnings by 8 to 9 per cent and use up its £80 million

of free cash. That gives the utility scope to carry on raising the dividend. Cover is a generous 3 times and there is no reason why it should not fall to less than 2 times by the end of the decade. Given that higher risk property companies cover their payouts less than 1.5 times, NIE has a long way to go and with few other uses for its cash, has little choice but to pay more.

LIG

EVEN when the outlook was blackest at London International Group last year, no one doubted that it has a collection of growing profitable businesses at its core that had been buried under a string of bizarre diversifications. With help from a £114 million rescue rights issue, the group has been able to free the condom and surgical glove businesses from the wreckage of the group's other activities, and the benefits are already coming through.

The difficulty that LIG faces now is that its business is too small to service such a large equity base effectively. The world market for condoms is growing, but not fast, and although the surgical glove business generated sales growth of 33 per cent last year LIG dominates the market so heavily that future gains will be limited.

That is why LIG is talking about acquisitions so early in its recovery. At least it has the resources to fund them. Once all the reorganisation has been paid for, the group is capable of generating £25 million of free cash a year. At least the talk this time is of buying other condom makers, not fine china companies and film processing laboratories. LIG's management has accomplished everything promised but the shares, on more than 20 times this year's earnings forecasts, are well ahead of events.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE			
	Jul	Aug	May
Cocoa	771.00	765.00	765.00
Gold	380.25	380.25	380.25
Oil	100.00	100.00	100.00
Wheat	100.00	100.00	100.00
Barley	100.00	100.00	100.00
Volume	7590		
ROBUSTA COFFEE (50kg)			
	Jul	Aug	May
Arabica	280.25	280.25	280.25
Robusta	280.25	280.25	280.25
Volume	2300		
WHITE SUGAR (50kg)			
	Jul	Aug	May
World	280.25	280.25	280.25
Volume	2147		
MEAT & LIVESTOCK			
	Jul	Aug	May
Cattle	112.25	112.25	112.25
Pigs	112.25	112.25	112.25
Sheep	112.25	112.25	112.25
Volume	2147		
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
	Jul	Aug	May
Copper	112.25	112.25	112.25
Aluminum	112.25	112.25	112.25
Volume	2147		

LIFE OPTIONS

LIFE OPTIONS			
	Jul	Aug	May
Call	112.25	112.25	112.25
Put	112.25	112.25	112.25
Volume	2147		

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES			
	Jul	Aug	May
FT-SE 100	3340.6	3340.6	3340.6
FT-SE 250	3674.6	3674.6	3674.6
FT-SE 100	1660.9	1660.9	1660.9
FT-SE 100	174.30	174.30	174.30
FT A All-Share	1652.3	1652.3	1652.3
FT All-Share	176.91	176.91	176.91
FT 100 Index	113.55	113.55	113.55
FT Govt Sec	94.61	94.61	94.61
Barclays	366.2	366.2	366.2
SEAC Volume	105	105	105
USM (Datastream)	156.83	156.83	156.83
USM	1.9912	1.9912	1.9912
German Mark	2.2846	2.2846	2.2846
Exchange Index	94.8	94.8	94.8
Bank of England official close (approx)	1.230	1.230	1.230
ECU	1.212	1.212	1.212
US\$	0.7178	0.7178	0.7178
YEN	149.0	149.0	149.0
1990 Apr 13.3% Jan 1997-100			

MONEY RATES (%)

MONEY RATES (%)			
	Jul	Aug	May
Call	112.25	112.25	112.25
Put	112.25	112.25	112.25
Volume	2147		

DOLLAR RATES

DOLLAR RATES			
	Jul	Aug	May
US\$	0.7178	0.7178	0.7178
YEN	149.0	149.0	149.0
1990 Apr 13.3% Jan 1997-100			

FT-SE VOLUMES

FT-SE VOLUMES			
	Jul	Aug	May
Call	112.25	112.25	112.25
Put	112.25	112.25	112.25
Volume	2147		

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)			
	Jul	Aug	May
Call	112.25	112.25	112.25
Put	112.25	112.25	112.25
Volume	2147		

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES			
	Jul	Aug	May
Call	112.25	112.25	112.25
Put	112.25	112.25	112.25
Volume	2147		

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Don't bank on Bournemouth

PENSIONERS of Chase Manhattan Bank in Britain have been dealt a cruel and terrible blow in their twilight years. They have been sent an extract from an internal Chase memo advising all staff that "as a result of current pressure on expenses, the bank is unable to fund major employee events this year". The axe falls not only in America, but at all overseas locations. Chase Manhattan staff are already deep in their cups. They have been told that the bank will "not be able to finance the Independence Day celebrations and any Christmas events". But in 22 cruel words Chase tells its pensioners: "We felt we should keep you all informed, as some of you may have anticipated a coach trip to Bournemouth during July". In other words — the annual trip to the seaside is off.

Tony Clegg dies

TONY CLEGG, property tycoon of the 1980s who sold out of Mountleigh Group to US businessmen Nelson Peltz and Peter May at the top of the market in November 1989, died yesterday after a long illness. He was 58. He was one of life's "working-class heroes". He left school at 16, worked as a general dogbody in his parents' two Manchester restaurants, and became a director of Mountain Mills in 1963. Three years later, that company was reversed into the textile company Leigh Mills, hence Mountleigh. Between 1982 and 1988, Mountleigh's market capitalisation rose from £6 million to £372 million. He was awarded the OBE in this year's New Year's Honours List for services to the health sector.

MORE defections from NatWest Stockbrokers, where seven have now left in the past two weeks. Paul Neenan and Robert Stock, both with private client expertise, have joined Charles Stanley.



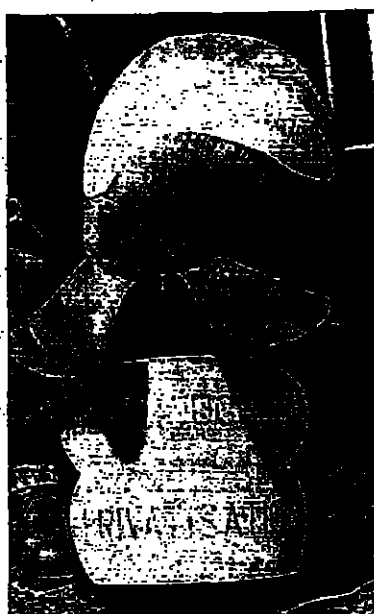
A nice gasman

HOWARD DALTON, an executive director of British Gas since January 1992, takes a bow. Dalton was the only director to be re-elected at Wednesday's stormy annual meeting on a show of hands. Why this single honour reserved for him? As the shareholder who asked a complicated question told him: "You, sir, are the first director to give me a direct answer. I will vote for you." The truth is that Dalton is a straight talker lies within his cv. Not only is Dalton an American, who hails from Rochester, but at British Gas, he is also responsible for Pipeline Integrity.

Bubbling over

WHAT a change from the British Gas annual meeting. At Chelmsfield's meeting yesterday, chairman Elliott Bernard was not only thanked by a representative of the Dudley Chamber of Commerce for the group's management of the Merry Hill shopping centre in the West Midlands, but another popped up with a mug of champagne to toast the centre's success.

COLIN CAMPBELL



British Aerospace and Midland Bank have both faced graphic protests over arms, while Cedric the pig made his point at British Gas's annual meeting

Boards turn for help as Sid turns vicious

Graham Searjeant looks at how companies cope when the investors are revolting

A nightmare thought must have united the chairmen of Britain's leading companies over their morning newspapers yesterday. How could they avoid their annual meetings becoming the shambles that has made British Gas directors a laughing stock and the London Arena echo those of ancient Rome. After all, the chief executives of 48 of the top 100 quoted companies, most much smaller, are paid more than Cedric Brown, even after that pay rise. Many also know that, judged on financial performance, their shareholders have a lot more to complain about than the 1.4 million owners of British Gas.

If only the Myners committee had grasped the nettle, some may wish, they could be rid of this horrid prospect for ever. In February, this working party of City fund managers and company finance directors almost recommended that shareholders meetings should become voluntary. A minor change in company law could end the legal requirement to hold members' meetings each year and have chairmen dancing jigs of joy round the corridors of the Savoy Hotel. Paul Myners of Garmore, the active institutional shareholder who led the committee, concluded that these formal meetings had become "an area of despair". All companies polled thought annual meetings a waste of time, ignored by big shareholders and hijacked by special interest groups. Many despise the ritual because, they argue, even genuine small shareholders merely ask silly questions or come for the free beer.

In the end, Mr Myners and his colleagues, dedicated to better relations between institutional investors and companies, stood back from the zero AGM option. Instead, they suggested, the average annual meeting should be a more organised, businesslike and informative occasion. Shareholders should be educated rather than patronised. Had the committee gone for the easy option, it would in any case have found that this change was politically impossible.

Even Lord Hanson, who tries to make his company's AGMS positive rallies, was dashed by a wave of criticism in 1993, when he tried to make modest reforms to Hanson's articles of association. The proposals, later withdrawn, would have allowed him to stop people kicking up rows, trying to unseat directors or demanding votes that were pointless because the chair had City investors' proxies.

Directors of companies who upset one interest or another often argue that they are ultimately responsible only to their shareholders. They then adopt a working assumption that their shareholders are only interested in the group's financial progress, the safety of



Police form a cordon against protesters at Shell's annual meeting

its balance sheet, the prospects for profits and, most of all, the growth in dividends. In the case of institutional shareholders, who usually control about three quarters of the votes in big companies, this is generally true. Fund managers' contracts depend on the performance of the investments they choose. Even their growing interest in corporate governance, including pay, is largely concerned with financial performance and cutting risk. Not for them to agonise over the rain forests.

Among small shareholders, including cohorts of employee shareholders, other aspects of their company matter too — the way it presents itself to customers, how it treats staff, the quality of its products. Private shareholders are just as likely to be "green" or to care about the treatment of pensioners, as any other group in the population. Those who have been marginalised, their arguments blocked or ignored by multinationals' lack of accountability, have also become

clever. If directors are responsible only to shareholders for their policies and behaviour, the way to make them accountable is to become shareholders.

The protest annual meeting was a creature of the apartheid years in South Africa. Now it has become commonplace. Within the past few weeks, British Aerospace has had its shareholders' attention drawn to civilian deaths caused by its Hawk aircraft in Indonesia. Barclays has been picketed by bankrupted small businessmen. Shell had its flag burnt to draw attention to the oppression of people round oil operations owned jointly by the Nigerian Government. Even the Hongkong & Shanghai banking group, which survived three quarters of a century before its first AGM question, was guarded by a tank telling shareholders that they had financed sales of arms to Iraq.

Protest remains, however, the exception. For many more company chairmen, the most worrying prospect is

that the AGM might lack a quorum. British Gas was not the only big company to hold its annual meeting in London on Wednesday. While mayhem was raging in Docklands, Sir Alastair Morton was conducting a highly stage-managed event for Eurotunnel in Westminster, complete with giant video screens and translation both for the deaf and for French-speaking investors. Eurotunnel shareholders are almost as widely drawn as those of British Gas, but face tangible losses and receding hopes of dividends. They had more to complain about than most. Yet Sir Alastair faced only politely critical questioning and earned warm applause. Things might be awful, shareholders seemed to conclude, but the board was doing its best — and not doubling its own pay.

At a low-key meeting in a City livery hall, the Prudential encountered only token whingeing over alleged mis-selling of pensions. The little embarrassment of its chief executive's sudden departure was not raised. Shareholders did criticise the Kingfisher retail group's board over its financial performance, but there was no cheeky challenge to Sir Nigel Mobbs, its intimidatingly large chairman.

Perhaps these companies had accidentally discovered a British mini-version of the Japanese answer to annual meetings. Faced by blackmail from yakuza gangsters, who threatened to disrupt proceedings, Japanese companies hit back by holding their AGMs on the same day. The yakuza could not be everywhere at once.

The Tokyo solution is, however, almost as despairing as trying to abolish annual meetings. Rather, boards of big companies, especially utilities and those with far-flung operations, should take this ersatz new shareholder democracy more seriously.

One answer is to improve the annual meeting. Since most have no positive purpose, anything that happens can only be negative. The intelligent give protest its rein. The forward-looking should be organising a jamboree for shareholders. Why not hold it at the racetrack or football ground where the board usually entertains itself and its friends on the back of corporate sponsorship? Why not turn it into a fair for the company's products or services? The serious-minded could at least bore shareholders into submission with endless video presentations and financial analyses.

Directors should also accept that protests such as those at British Gas are legitimate. The board may have the votes of fund managers. The British Gas affair, and others, suggest that these do not reflect the views of the underlying investors they supposedly represent, certainly on social issues such as pay, the environment, or even on the behaviour of the company abroad. Managers cannot satisfy all interests or conflicting lobbies, nor be straitjacketed by political correctness. Too often, however, they think they cannot take an ethical view because they are beholden to fund managers who feel bound by the same self-denying ordinance. The idea that shareholders would actually like managers to behave like rounded human beings rather than profit slaves could turn persecution to liberation.

Japanese cannot decide whether the worst is over

Analysts ponder some diverse options, reports Gwen Robinson from Tokyo

This year is turning out to be a *crisis horribilis* for Japan. Not only has it been forced to contend with earthquakes and poison gas attacks, but the country is beset by deep underlying fears about the economy that have emerged from the obstinate surge of the yen and an increasingly bitter trade dispute with the United States.

Falling share prices, weak economic data, and recent revelations about the extent of bad loans dogging Japan's major banks, have added to the deepening economic malaise. The debate among analysts and economic planners, which last year centred on the pace and extent of the fragile economic recovery, is now shifting to the question: Can Japan recover at all this year — or will it sink back into the grip of recession?

An analyst with a Tokyo securities firm said: "The central issue is what options has Japan got? In this current climate, we don't even know whether this country is going to be in a full-fledged trade war with the US by July, or whether the yen is going to be hitting 70 to the dollar. These factors would make a big difference to any economic outlook."

Among the short-term palliatives are growing expectations that the central bank will further cut the official interest rate, already at a historic low of 1 per cent. That prospect, however, has failed to excite the stock market, which has seen further share falls, rising unemployment and a shrinking GDP.

The yen's modest fall on Thursday, following joint intervention by major central banks, also failed to encourage economists. Jesper Koll, of J.P. Morgan in Tokyo, said: "The widening gap between the still optimistic government and more pessimistic private forecasters is highlighted by the Finance Ministry's confirmation of an unchanged official 1995 GDP forecast of 2.8 per cent."

The growing spectre of unemployment this week reinforced those fears, when the Government announced that Japan's unemployment rate had risen to an all-time high of 3.2 per cent. Many

economists see the beginning of a fresh "lost decade" in an economy that has still not recovered from the bursting of the speculative bubble in late 1989. Property prices have plummeted and prime property values are still falling, as investors struggle to unload their assets amid a growing mountain of bad debt.

The true extent of the balance sheet problems in the financial system was highlighted last week. In the fiscal year that ended March 31, Japan's 11 major commercial banks (or "city banks"), posted aggregate pre-tax profits of 43.2 billion yen (£320 million) — a drop of 92.3 per cent. Profits from core banking business were down 13.5 per cent from last year. The Finance Ministry darkened the picture on Wednesday, revealing that bad loans left over from the 1980s of the 11 "city banks" amounted to 18,672 billion yen at the end of the fiscal year 1994. The figure is about 230 per cent higher than the banks had initially

revealed, but many financial analysts believe the actual extent of bad loans could be as much as 25 trillion yen. Against this backdrop, new concerns have been sparked by increasingly ugly rhetoric between Washington and Tokyo over trade in automobiles and auto parts. Labour and production reports and other economic data released this week were without exception, worse than expected. These and other fears drove down Tokyo share prices on Wednesday to a record low of 15,437. Many analysts predict the index could soon fall to 14,000 points.

Eamon Fingleton, author of *Blindside*, a book published yesterday in Britain about Japan's economy, argues that Japan will emerge stronger from its current financial and economic troubles. He said: "Every time the yen goes up there are great screams and huge pessimism. But the exchange rate, even when it's moving in the 80s-to-the-dollar, is not killing Japanese industry. The high yen is basically forcing companies to rise to the challenge, and every time the yen has surged in the past, Japan gets over it."



Market followers say Tokyo shares will still head south

BUSINESS LETTER

British ownership under threat from get-rich-quick strategies

From Mr Ernest F. Potter Sir, On May 24 your correspondent weighed up potential bidders for Cable and Wireless. As a private shareholder with more than a small number of shares and with my former close association with the company, I am keenly interested in the share price, primarily as it reflects performance and results rather than its potential value to a bidder.

The sluggish performance of the share price over the past few years, accompanied by a progressive fall in the pie, leads one to believe there may be truth in the thought that the present leadership "loves a deal" more than the greater effort required in running the company successfully.

While the company becomes "a shining duck", the cash going into the pockets of those responsible for creating that situation increases significantly. Surely such levels of remuneration cannot be justified against the share price? Or is the strategy to get rich quickly and easily by making the company attractive to someone else? Would earnings

levels linked to share prices include some relationship to the external perception of the ability of management and its understanding of the group operating environment as well as to current profits — which bear more relationship to the foundations laid and decisions made some years ago than to those of today?

Infinite attention to all those aspects of business management in all parts of the business, where proper information in the centre shows clearly where and when top management must interfere, should avoid the all too frequent announcements of the need to write off yet another £100 million (or much more) fundamentally to correct former mistakes of the same management. Why was Telephone Rentals bought in the

first place with a need now to write off more than £200 million? The first time the possible acquisition was raised it was firmly rejected on sound grounds. How have the Cable companies been able to replace Mercury as the main competitor to BT?

Co-operation, instead of competition, with BT (and others) in overseas markets would make a formidable opponent to foreign companies seeking to enter those markets. It should produce a wide range of benefits to each company and even greater benefits to the UK — always assuming the principals in each British company involved are men with wider interests than their own backyards and personal pockets. C&W was, and I hope is, a shining example of the way

individuals of different nationalities and creeds can, and do, work together for the common good. Greater co-operation of British companies, preserving competition at home while offering a united front abroad and against foreign competition at home, must result in greater company success and improvement in the UK economy.

Surely the Government recognises the major benefits to the country in its keeping ownership in the UK? Apart from its major contribution to foreign currency earnings, C&W's global operations put it in a unique position to be of value to Great Britain in ways other than the stimulation of international trade for other UK companies — as has happened in the past in the Far East. It would be a major loss to Great Britain to see C&W in foreign ownership.

Yours faithfully, ERNEST F. POTTER (Former director of finance, C&W) Long Meadow, Gorse Hill Road, Virginia Water, Surrey.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112

direct

Open seven days a week from 8.00am to 10.00pm (0345) 95 95 95

For more information and your free PEP pack call us (on local rate), fax us on (01453) 215 700, or write to Virgin Direct, FREEPOST, Discovery House, Whitting Road, Horwich M44 6ER. Minimum investment £1,000

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRD. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up. You may not get back all the money you invest. Virgin Direct does not offer investment advice or make any recommendations about investments. We only market Virgin Direct products. For your security, all telephone calls to Virgin Direct will be recorded.

Handwritten signature: JAVICO 1350

Shares close below their best

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986	985	984	983	982	981	980	979	978	977	976	975	974	973	972	971	970	969	968	967	966	965	964	963	962	961	960	959	958	957	956	955	954	953	952	951	950	949	948	947	946	945	944	943	942	941	940	939	938	937	936	935	934	933	932	931	930	929	928	927	926	925	924	923	922	921	920	919	918	917	916	915	914	913	912	911	910	909	908	907	906	905	904	903	902	901	900	899	898	897	896	895	894	893	892	891	890	889	888	887	886	885	884	883	882	881	880	879	878	877	876	875	874	873	872	871	870	869	868	867	866	865	864	863	862	861	860	859	858	857	856	855	854	853	852	851	850	849	848	847	846	845	844	843	842	841	840	839	838	837	836	835	834	833	832	831	830	829	828	827	826	825	824	823	822	821	820	819	818	817	816	815	814	813	812	811	810	809	808	807	806	805	804	803	802	801	800	799	798	797	796	795	794	793	792	791	790	789	788	787	786	785	784	783	782	781	780	779	778	777	776	775	774	773	772	771	770	769	768	767	766	765	764	763	762	761	760	759	758	757	756	755	754	753	752	751	750	749	748	747	746	745	744	743	742	741	740	739	738	737	736	735	734	733	732	731	730	729	728	727	726	725	724	723	722	721	720	719	718	717	716	715	714	713	712	711	710	709	708	707	706	705	704	703	702	701	700	699	698	697	696	695	694	693	692	691	690	689	688	687	686	685	684	683	682	681	680	679	678	677	676	675	674	673	672	671	670	669	668	667	666	665	664	663	662	661	660	659	658	657	656	655	654	653	652	651	650	649	648	647	646	645	644	643	642	641	640	639	638	637	636	635	634	633	632	631	630	629	628	627	626	625	624	623	622	621	620	619	618	617	616	615	614	613	612	611	610	609	608	607	606	605	604	603	602	
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	--

When you're
waiting for an invoice
to be paid,
throw your calendar
away and
buy a stopwatch.

There's no need to wait months to be paid, as Barclays will settle up to 80% of your invoices within one working day. We'll free your cash while you retain the contact with your customers. So your business has the funds to run and grow and you stay in control. The service is available to businesses with sales of £250,000 p.a. or over. For more details phone 0800 418 418, or race down to your local branch.



SALES LEDGER FINANCE

**ONE MARKET THE BOTTOM
WON'T FALL OUT OF**

**MADE TO MEASURE
TROUSERS
AT OFF THE PEG PRICES**

14 DAY DELIVERY

ANY SIZE • ANY STYLE

**PLUS TWS – FROG POCKETS – PEG FLEETS
BUTTON FLY – SIZE ADJUSTERS – HIGH PISE etc.**

Classic British Trousers
Specialists for over 25 years
at very affordable prices.

**PRICED TO SELL
WHILE STOCKS LAST**

**Also FACTORY SHOP
Open Sun-Sat 10am to 5pm.**

**OVER 100 FINE
BRITISH TRADITIONAL
CLOTHS**

**• SUMMER LIGHTWEIGHTS
• VEGETIAN • GINGERBURY
• TWISTED • FRAMES • WOOL
• CORDS • SUEDE
• BUCKLE • CATALY TRILL etc.**

**TO ACHIEVE YOUR SIZE
AND SET SHOW
FOR YOUR**

FREE INFORMATION
CLOTH SAMPLES
CALL
01734 560590
24 HOUR ANSWERPHONE

BROOK MARTINE & CO. LTD.
(Dept T122), Prospect (no stamp required), Fox Oath, Crawley Heath,
Worley, West Midlands B64 5BR.
Fax: 01384 589069

Be your own scientist

650 Wharfedale Road, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 5

Dial up a new job today

We keep hearing that the Internet will change our lives, whether we like it or not. Well, it's already happening. In some sectors of the business world, such as the recruitment of contract staff for information technology, traditional methods are being challenged by electronic alternatives.

Behind the scenes, the two main publications in this niche market, *Freelance Informer* and *Computer Contractor*, have been engaged in a technology race. This ended about a month ago when both publications launched their online supplements to conventional paper publishing.

The two titles have opted for different types of online service. *Freelance Informer* is offering a bulletin board, while *Computer Contractor* is on the Internet. Both services give the electronic reader access to information such as news items and features, but the real value to IT contractors is online access to freelance opportunities.

The reason electronic publishing is having such an early impact on this specialised part of the IT market is because of the speed at which it moves. When an IT department needs freelancers, it often wants them to start yesterday, and the

When an IT department needs freelancers, it often wants them to have started yesterday. The latest online recruitment services should help to speed up matters, John Samson reports

agencies which serve them are in a race to get the CVs of suitable and available applicants delivered to the relevant manager as quickly as possible. Vacancies advertised electronically can be accessed by prospective candidates almost immediately.

The only snag in this brave new world of electronic recruitment is that not every prospective freelance has a modem. There are currently around 25,000 working contractors in the IT industry and probably fewer than 20 per cent have the equipment and knowledge necessary to use these new online jobs pages.

However, this number is growing rapidly and recruiters are particularly anxious to reach the early adopters of online technology, precisely because these are very often the ideal candidates for the vacancies they are trying to fill. An agency which can put forward one or two excellent candidates will often win against another putting forward half a dozen also-rans.

One of the key factors from the

job-seeker's point of view is accessibility, and on this point a bulletin board with its own dedicated phone number may have a slight advantage, in that Internet access is not required.

Of course, the user will need a personal computer, a modem and suitable communications software (which often comes with the modem), but that's all. With that the bulletin board can be dialled and the latest contract opportunities accessed using a search key mechanism.

The lowest level of Internet access is an electronic mail-only service, and some companies now provide this to employees, so that some people who do not have it at home may have it at work. E-mail gives the job-seeker the chance to try out the recruitment services which use this medium.

One of the new electronic media challenging traditional publishers in this field is called Jobserve. It has attracted a good following with an electronic readership of around 3,000. For a job-seeker to use this

service, he or she need only send a blank E-mail message to the electronic address:

subscribe@jobserve.com
This will result in a daily e-mail bulletin of new contract vacancies being sent. Like all of the electronic recruitment services, the stream of vacancies can be filtered to deliver only those of interest to the individual job-seeker by using keywords to highlight particular skill areas.

Jobserve has been around for about six months and on a typical day carries about 50 new contract opportunities.

Computer Contractor's e-mail server, part of its recently launched jobnet package, operates on a similar principle. All a contractor has to do is send an e-mail message with the word "subscribe" in its contents field to e-mail address: contracts-quick@mpn.com

This will also result in a daily e-mail bulletin of freelance opportunities being sent every day. When the candidate has found a job, this daily bulletin will no longer be wanted, and can be switched off at

once by simply sending an "unsubscribe" message to the same address.

If a prospective freelance just wants a one-off listing of all outstanding vacancies, then a message "get assignments" to e-mail address:

contracts-quick@mpn.com will achieve this result.

The next level of sophistication for an electronic job-seeker is full Internet access which opens the door to the World Wide Web with its hypertext links and clever graphics.

Computer Contractor's web pages include freelance vacancies which can be updated by advertisers almost instantly. Another purely electronic publication offering similar Web access is *Cyber Contracts*. One thing is certain, IT freelancers won't be short of choices in the electronic job centre of the future.

The *Freelance Informer* bulletin board is on 0181-652 3444.

Computer Contractor:
www.vnu.co.uk/vnu/ccl/
Cyber Contracts:
www.cybercontracts.co.uk/
Jobserve:
www.jobserve.com

● The author is editor of *Computer Contractor*.



TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 481 4481

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

FAX:
0171 782 7826

Bring practical IT Training to the End User

IT Training Consultant £30k + car + benefits

Too often - despite the best intentions and good trainers, many "students" - often key members of the management team - gain comparatively little value from their training. That's a waste of time, money and talent.



In this brand new role, IT training must be clearly focused on the precise benefits of the applications. This means talking directly to the businesses to establish what they need! Then working closely with those businesses to develop their own individual IT training strategy. You will make presentations to senior management throughout the organisation in order to gain their commitment to the overall strategy. You will also deliver tailor-made IT Training programmes to increase the practical use of IT at all levels, then evaluate the impact of IT training.

Your role is not "teaching", rather it is selling the process and the benefits - as well as organising the delivery. Therefore your understanding of IT must be from more than a trainer's perspective, you must be able to interpret the applications and translate IT into business training requirements.



So, it is likely that your background will include sales and/or management, within a large multi national organisation or the IT industry.

Whitbread plc own and operate many of the UK's leading food and drink brands and leisure concepts. Our culture is open, results driven, totally customer focused and service led. Working with us will appeal to individuals who can thrive in such an environment, and who seek merit based career development.

If we have described you and an environment that attracts you, then please write, telling us why, and enclosing your CV, to: Keith Thomas, reference 1829/01, Managing Consultant, Lansdowne, Rosedale House, Rosedale Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2SZ



WHITBREAD

IT Strategy & Development Manager

A role vital to our continuing success

Reed Information Services, a member of the Reed Elsevier plc group, is a leading worldwide provider of business information and services with operations in the UK, USA, and China.

Our use of Information Technology over many years has been a major contributing factor in achieving this position in a highly competitive market place. New technologies and market sectors have emerged, with new products and services being offered.

RIS has been quick to respond to these challenges, but it is essential that we continue to adapt our internal business systems to maximise effectiveness and profitability.

We are now seeking a highly experienced professional who can bring an awareness of developments and trends in IT with particular reference to networks using Unix, Oracle, Netware and Windows; systems development productivity tools; CD-ROM; Online Services and the Internet.

Reporting directly to the IT Director, you will provide project leadership and guidance to a team of 25+ other IT professionals. You must have substantial experience in a similar position and combine this with good oral/written communication and interpersonal skills. Have a strong personality, be a good motivator, and possess commercial awareness.

The salary and benefits package we are offering will be attractive to high-calibre candidates.

Please write with a complete cv. to: Personnel Department, Reed Information Services, Windsor Court, East Grinstead House, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 1XA.



REED INFORMATION SERVICES
A Division of Reed Telepublishing Ltd

HR SYSTEMS SPECIALIST PROJECT MANAGER

Contract position for high calibre IT Project Manager with in-depth knowledge of human resource systems and business practice, ideally within the financial services industry.

Based South West, minimum 6 months duration, excellent rates.

Project Management Recruitment Ltd
6-8 Broadway, Buryhead, Kent, DA6 7LE
Telephone 0181 298 9000, Fax 0181 298 9988



Times Supplements Limited Systems & Project Support

We publish three national weekly newspapers, and run a successful Internet service. Our system of networked PCs, Macs and Unix covers 130 users. This summer, we are introducing a Windows-based Classified booking and production system, and further planned projects include ISDN services, Internet, CD-ROM publishing and a Picture Desk database.

The job: provide front-line user support; assess software, hardware and network problems; responsible to the Information Systems Manager, you will assist on, and implement, IT projects, including new media and Internet services; coordinate and provide ongoing training.

The skills: Windows and Mac software, particularly use of QuarkXpress and Photoshop. Knowledge of network software and Unix an advantage. Newspaper production/IT experience an advantage. Self-motivated; the ability to work either alone or in a small team.

Corporate benefits. Salary circa £25k. Closing date June 12. Please send CV and covering letter, with details of current salary, to: Information Systems Manager, Times Supplements Ltd, Admiral House, 66-68 East Smithfield, London E1 9XY

Head of Information Technology

This highly successful retailer has stores throughout the U.K. and, with new openings planned for 1995, their business is fast-growing and dynamic.

They now wish to appoint a Head of Information Technology. Reporting at board level, you will take complete charge of the Information Technology group, improving its reputation and performance through your understanding of the corporate philosophy and business objectives. The Information Technology group is pivotal to that development.

Project management skills of the highest level must be combined with a commercial understanding and a knowledge of the retail marketplace. Technical awareness is obviously critical, ideally with experience of a DEC/VAX environment.

If you have the energy, clarity of vision, interpersonal and persuasive skills to take on this high-profile role and create a department focused on providing an outstanding service to users, the prospects for progression are excellent.

Please send your C.V., with a covering letter which must explain why you are ready for this challenge and quoting ref: MD3810SF, to: John Goldsmith, Macmillan Davies, Crest House, 7 Highfield Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3ED



Macmillan Davies

BIRMINGHAM • BRISTOL • HERTFORD • LEEDS • LONDON • MANCHESTER

East Midlands

£45,000 plus car and benefits

Group IT Manager Upgrade Manufacturing Systems to Anticipate Global Expansion

MANMAN MRP II NOVELL CAD DRP EDI

South East

c £35,000

This is an exceptional opportunity for a well-rounded manufacturing specialist, with a keen appreciation of the business benefits of advanced technology, to play a pivotal role with a highly successful telecomms manufacturer, expanding organically and by acquisition.

One consequence of fast growth is a legacy of disparate systems in different locations. Leading a team of IT professionals, your key task will be to help define the future IT strategy and rationalise HW/SW applications throughout the Group, in the UK and abroad.

Ideally 30-45 and of graduate calibre, you are excited by the breath and scope of this considerable challenge. A visionary team leader, your strong technical base is complemented by an ability to manage all supplier relationships to company advantage. Salary is c £35,000 plus attractive benefits.

Please respond with full CV, supported by a covering letter highlighting your experience in all relevant areas. Write to Richard Morgan at Aston Zoraster Limited, Westminster House, 58 London Street, Reading, Berks RG1 4SQ.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH & SELECTION

FACING A CAREER MOVE?

- MM2 will help you to a planned and productive move:
- managed campaign tailored to your needs
- practical and supported job search techniques
- personal introductions for unadvertised opportunities
- successful one-to-one career counselling programmes

Over 12 years Outplacement Expertise

Find out how our quality approach works for you by phoning Jane Jackson on (01276) 686327 for an assessment meeting without obligation or cost with the outstanding Career Management specialists MM2 Consulting Group. MM2 House, Canterbury GU15 5PT.

For Management on the Move

MM2 Consulting Group is bound by the IPD Code of Conduct for Career Development Consultants

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: BOX No.

c/o THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS
P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST,
LONDON, E1 9GA

CAREER CHANGE?

At Carrington we can provide the expert advice and support which you need at this time.

Call Finbar O'Donovan
on 0171-409 3214
or 0181-643 2323

Carrington Career Services
1 Mar Hill London W1X 7L5

Wanted!

Sales trainer with good computer skills for instant promotion. If you have sales experience, be able to teach new salespeople how to sell and feel well in the computer business give us a call or send a fax.

W. O. T. T. Promotions and
Tech 0894-411-2872-9
Fax 0894-411-2877-99
E-Mail:

180271779@compuserve.com
We speak, this is a part-time job
starting soon. Further engagement
in a full time job is possible.

FINANCIAL MANAGER

An East Midlands Company involved in the textile and clothing industry is seeking a new Financial Controller for their growing business within the European Area. This is a senior position requiring proven experience of managing the financial function and Information Technology as well as the ability to understand and develop a business. The job holder will need to be a qualified accountant with at least 5 years experience in a manufacturing organisation, preferably the clothing industry. A second European language would be an advantage.

Applications please to writing with salary to Box No. 6405.

هكنا من الأهل



THEATRE 1

In Birmingham, Terry Hands's revival of *The Importance of Being Earnest* needs to calm down



THEATRE 2

Feeling good with a little risqué rock'n'roll: *The Rocky Horror Show* is back in the West End

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 1

The music of Jonathan Harvey and the dreams of Utopia find a perfect match at the Bath Festival



MUSIC 2

Authority on the podium as Andrew Davis conducts new work and old with the BBC SO in Birmingham

Wilde ride, no brakes

Earnest centenary staging in Birmingham; a cult musical extravaganza returns to the West End (below)

The powers-that-be at Birmingham are advertising Terry Hands's revival of *The Importance of Being Earnest* as the centenary production. That seems a bit unwise, for it was almost 100 years to the day that Oscar Wilde was sentenced to hard labour and the play, so successful at first, was forced to close. Certainly it raises an obvious question. What does Birmingham actually succeed in celebrating, triumph or disaster?

Neither quite, or neither yet. This is a lavish, energetic production, one that does far more to reinforce the play's reputation than the much-touted Maggie Smith bit-part of two years ago. But at times it is so strenuously busy that you feel like jumping stage and forcing the cast en masse to take the sort of dose test given to sprinters after 100yd dashes. Something calming is needed — yoga classes, cold showers, a dab of chloroform on everybody's handkerchief? — before the play moves to the Old Vic in July.

Take Algernon, for instance. He is played by Philip Fanks, whom many will remember as the mild, virtuous Tom Pinch in *Martin Chuzzlewit* or television. Here he comes across rather differently. It is not merely that he lives in a Half Moon Street flat that as gorgeously redesigned by Mark Bailey, resembles a

The Importance of Being Earnest

Birmingham Rep

palace put together by a Turkish pasha and an Indian rajah. He gambols and tumbles among the carpets and drapes, gongs and cushions, his odd satin knickerbockers adding to the impression of a Lord Fauntleroy on speed.

That is not necessarily or wholly a bad idea. Algernon is certainly restless and, though as intellectually adroit as anyone in Wilde, can doubtless be regarded as emotionally callow. He must dash off on impulse to meet the ward of his friend Jack Worthing, pass himself off as his wicked brother Ernest, and promptly propose marriage to her. But Franks pushes frolicsome narcissism too hard for what is, after all, an elegantly artificial comedy, not a spoof study of upper-crust immaturity. Unsurprisingly, he does not always get the laughs a cooler delivery of those urbane witticisms would ensure.

That sense of strain is evident elsewhere, too. The sunset affection burgeoning between Canon Chasuble and Miss Prism is nicely suggested by Patrick Godfrey — but should Rosalind Knight practically headbutt him by way of signalling her delight at his

attentions? Again, Jack's beloved Gwendolen need not be the sleek, spoilt, essentially passive beauty many actresses make her — but doesn't Abigail Cruttenden overcompensate with too brash and pushy a performance? Hands rightly rejects conventional Victorian lassitude, only to embrace an excessively modern volatility.

That is apparent in the way Barbara Leigh-Hunt, a fine and underrated actress, plays the grande dame who oversees all these confused amours. Her Lady Bracknell is always interesting, never quite coherent. She can be unwontedly mellow and friendly, even joining in the laughter at Algernon's tale of the widow whose hair has turned gold from grief. She can be haughty, angry, avaricious, appalled and distraught. She has found a new way of expressing the character's feelings about Jack's infant abode, transforming the famous words "a handbag!" into a piece of aghast dumbshow, more gape than whisper. But she is playing the moments, not finding the centre. Beside Maggie Smith's bird of prey or Judi Dench's pedigree terrier or even Irene Handl's nouveau-riche *hausfrau*, her Bracknell so far lacks consistency and solidity.

Yet though the faces in the audience around me sometimes looked more puzzled than amused, this is a produc-

tion with a good chance of improving. Time and experience can and should bring confidence, relaxation and, with them, the poise that Wilde demands. In any case, one performance is already showing the way. Roger Allam's Jack is part of the problem when he signals nervousness by overdeliberately shaking the crockery he hap-

pens to be holding, but part of the solution when he is obsequiously nodding and bowing at Leigh-Hunt's frosty Bracknell, his mouth an awful grinning rictus as she contemptuously turns away. There, surely, is the right balance of realism and fun.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Former ice-skating star Robin Cousins struts his stuff in suspenders as the sex-mad scientist Frank N. Furter

The Rocky Horror Show

Duke Of York's

One more time. The super-cult, mock-gothic musical, originally conceived by Richard O'Brien in 1965, is back. This is essentially the same production as seen here last year, but with some cast changes. What matter if you cannot make out the lyrics over the pumping backing band? You should know them by heart by now. The blare may become a blur, but this is a persistently feisty good show, shaking the grand old Duke of York's with some risqué rock 'n' roll.

So, the groupies, dedicatedly tricked out in their fave characters' gear, are one again tottering down St Martin's Lane: a nightmare of fishnets, corsets and spook-punk make-up. The knowingly naff Nicholas Parsons is still narrating the mock-B movie adventures of Brad and Janet.

Former skating star Robin Cousins takes on the role of sex-mad scientist Frank N. Furter. He sings rock with some gusto, strutting in his

suspenders, belting out *Sweet Transvestite* with bursts of hardcore raucousness relieved by high-pitched patches. Unfortunately, he has not got the luridly enticing looks of Tim Curry, immortalised in the movie. Cousins can dance, and does a witty send-up of a dying swan when Frank is finally zapped by Riff Raff, his extraterrestrial butler. But he is not wholly liberated in his platform heels. He also desperately needs to get his skates on when it comes to spoken lines. The show loses oomph as soon as he has to act.

Several of the main roles are more weakly played than before. Tony Dowding (former member of the pop group Bad Boys Inc) is not much good as Rocky, the peroxide Tarzan created by Frank in his cranky laboratory. Dowding's acting

is limited to endless grins and a couple of tensed biceps. Riff Raff (Vas Constanti) manages to be unremarkable even with the black-ringed eyes of the living dead, suspiciously skin-tight satin livery, and a burning lust for his sister, Magenta (Corrina Powlesland, who has more bite).

Nicholas Parsons remains a pleasing glutton for punishment, lapping up cheek from the audience and giving as good as he gets. Joanne Farrell (recently in *Graffiti*) also shines as Janet, converting from powder-pink goody-goodness to the leather jacket of lost innocence. The story, for all its flimsy structuring, perhaps has some of the archetypal appeal of *Midsummer Night's Dream*: a fantasy of the faithfully affianced having a wayward fling, here with a radical question mark hanging over their ability to return to orthodox wedding bells. And, of course, the tunes are kind of catchy.

KATE BASSETT

Vision and variations

NEW MUSIC:

Utopia comes to Bath; Purcell goes Danish in Birmingham

THE music of Jonathan Harvey is perhaps not everyone's idea of Utopia, but Utopia is the theme of this year's Bath Festival, Harvey is its featured composer, and they seem to go together rather well. Harvey is, after all, a visionary composer; the religious aspiration is always there and often discernible too.

In comparison with the specifically if eccentrically Catholic sentiment of the *Quatuor pour la Fin du Temps*, the expressive content of Harvey's recent *Scena*, which was presented alongside that Messiaen masterpiece in a Bath Festival concert in the Assembly Rooms, seems scarcely religious at all. Indeed, as the title suggests, *Scena* is a series of more or less operatic events, the principal interest of which is the agitated, Orpheus-like reactions of the solo-violin protagonist and the dramatic colouring of the accompanying mixed ensemble.

But as the rhetorical virtuosity of the solo part and the multi-faceted activity of the others are both modified, so that they move towards common ground, and as they finally combine in exotically infected unison melody, the aspiration is clearly otherworldly, if only in the most generalised way. Written originally for Irvine Arditi and the Ensemble of Amsterdam, *Scena* was given a most convincing first British performance by the same soloist and the expert instrumentalists of the Nash Ensemble.

THERE is always a danger, however, even at the Bath Festival, that a visionary composer will try to take his audience further into transcendental thinking than their culture allows them to go. Of the two works by Harvey in the concert given by Birmingham Contemporary Music Group and Birmingham Electro-Acoustic Sound Theatre, the earlier, *Mortuos Plango, Vivos Voco*, met no such resistance: in its poetic treatment of sounds derived from the great tenor bell of Winchester Cathedral and the voice of a treble chorister (Dominic Harvey), it is an extension of the Anglican experience — an English equivalent of Stockhausen's *Gesang der Jünglinge*.

In *One Evening* — which was being given its first British performance by BEAST and BCMG under the direction of Stefan Asbury — Harvey is straining at the limits of our comprehension. That is what vision is all about, of course. There are some beautiful textures in *One Evening*, which is uncommonly successful in combining sounds from electronically generated and live instrumental and vocal sources. But in defining the four states of consciousness represented by the Zen-Buddhist, Sanskrit and other texts (sung and chanted on this occasion in the Guildhall by Sarah Leonard and Mary

Concerto in Pieces is a kind of concerto for orchestra in the form of ten variations on a theme by Purcell — a situation which immediately calls Britten's *Young Persons' Guide to Music* to mind. Riders avoids direct comparisons: his theme, from a *Witches' Chorus* in the second act of *Dido and Aeneas*, is nothing like the one Britten chose; the instruments he so lyrically highlights — saxophone, tuba, jazz-muted trumpet — are not prominent in Britten's score.

Even so, Britten's presence is felt as keenly in *Concerto in Pieces* as that of Purcell. As the variations twist away from *Dido and Aeneas*, they offer wittily oblique but unmistakable glimpses of Britten and the Purcell image is reassembled only towards the end, where it makes an effectively conclusive reflection of the opening of the work.

GERALD LARNER

HOOTIE & THE BLOWFISH

The No. 1 US Album

'Cracked Rear View'

includes:

'Let Her Cry',

'I Only Want To Be With You',

and the modern classic

'Hold My Hand'



VIENNA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

1994-1995 SERIES

Friday 2 June 1995 at 7.30pm

SEIJI OZAWA conductor

Berlioz Waverley Overture

Mozart Symphony No. 41, 'Jupiter'

Prokofiev Romeo and Juliet Suite

Concert presented by Bank Austria

Royal Festival Hall 0171 928 8800

'Though this be madness, yet there's method in't'

Cambridge Theatre Company is changing its name

From 1 June 1995, the company will become

229nbM & Method

Arts, Theatre, Music, Film

Two further sub-branches

placed under the name of

229nbM & Method

229nbM & Method

229nbM & Method

229nbM & Method

229nbM & Method



MONDAY 10 SATURDAY 9.00-6.00

FRIDAY 2nd to SATURDAY the 17th of JUNE

30% off new orders

40% reductions on most George Smith Fabrics

50% reductions on most showroom stock

GEORGE SMITH

Traditionally made Furniture, Fabrics and Kilims

587-589 KINGS ROAD LONDON SW6 2EH

TEL: 0171-384 1004 FAX: 0171-731 4451

JUNE 2 1995



POP 1

After more than 20 years in the music business, Joan Armatrading has a new album and a new attitude



POP 2

Lost for words: Rod Stewart runs out of worthwhile material on his album. *A Spanner in the Works*

THE TIMES ARTS



POP 3

Hypnotic grooves from a dynamic duo: the latest instalment in the trip-hop saga, from Earthling



POP 4

Fourteen years after his death, a new album revisits Bob Marley's less widely celebrated political numbers

Old raincoat lets us down

ROD STEWART

A Spanner in the Works (Warner Bros 9362-45867)

ROD STEWART'S besetting problem is the paucity of his songwriting. On *A Spanner in the Works*, he manages to earn a co-writing credit on just three of the 13 tracks: an embarrassingly sentimental tribute to the heroes of his youth called *Muddy, Sam and Otis*, and a couple of rakish rockers, *Lady Luck* and *Delicious*. He is also mistakenly credited with having written a song called *Purple Heather*, which is actually a straightforward version of the current Scottish Tourist Board theme, *Wild Mountain Thyme*, written by the McPeake Family.

So, strapped for original material as usual, he turns to whatever tunes catch his increasingly unreliable ear: a stroll through Chris Rea's *Windy Town* to get the ball rolling, followed by lukewarm run-throughs of Tom Petty's *Leave Virginia Alone* and Bob Dylan's *Sweetheart Like You*. The result is an unsatisfactory grab-bag of songs rolled



Rod Stewart: increasingly unreliable ear

out simply for the sake of something to occupy that familiar, scruffy drawl. Only a version of Tom Waits's idiosyncratic 12-bar, *Hang On St Christopher*, rises above the general mediocrity, but it is hardly enough to compensate for the sludgy power ballads (*You're The Star, This*) and middle-of-the-road stodge (*The Downtown Lights*).

Like a dutiful party host, it is an album with a cheerfully bland veneer and absolutely nothing to say for itself.

EARTHLING

Radar (Columbia 7243 8 33382)

THE latest instalment in the trip-hop saga comes courtesy of Earthling, a duo comprising programmer/producer Tim Saul from Bristol and rapper Muu from Ufford. Their debut album, *Radar*, is a collage of suitably hypnotic grooves, slowed down tapes and scratchy record samples — all freighted with Muu's intriguingly spacey raps.

It is good, especially the opening track *1st Transmission*, in which Muu compares himself to Shostakovich.

NEW ALBUMS

Leonard Cohen and Harvey Keitel, while declaring "I'm on my way to Babylon, by bus". But the album lacks a vital element of surprise. What sounded revolutionary when Portishead did it last year, and still astonishing when Tricky added his tuppenceworth earlier this year, now seems just another credible, though superficial, stab at an increasingly familiar formula.

BOB MARLEY AND THE WAILERS

Natural Mystic — The Legend

Lives On (Tuff Gong/Island 524 103)

BOB MARLEY'S music is still the yardstick by which all other reggae acts are judged and, to a greater or lesser extent, found wanting, although 14 years after his death there is precious little of it that has not been heard before.

Natural Mystic is an intelligently assembled selection of previously available tracks, designed as a companion to the massive-selling *Legend* compilation, currently enjoying its 247th week in the British album chart.

Whereas *Legend* concentrated on his pop hits, *Natural Mystic* revisits some of the more politically charged numbers which run like a thread of steel through Marley's repertoire. So *Much Trouble in the World*, *Africa Unite* and *War* are songs which defined the philosophy of a musician whose significance was so much more than the sum of his hits.

It is a pleasure to hear them dusted off again, along with Marley's 1992 hit *Lion Zion* and various lighter, summery tunes such as *Easy Skanking* and *Sun Is Shining* which lend the package a firm, nicely balanced feel.

CARL CRAIG

Landcraising (Blanco Y Negro/Warner Music 4509-99865)

PRODUCER and composer

Carl Craig's reputation as a pioneer of the Detroit techno sound, with remixing credits including Tori Amos, Yello and the Orb, precedes him. And even if it did not, titles such as *Mind of a Machine*, *Science Fiction* and *Technology*, suggest a debut album that is not exactly rooted in ancient folk forms.

In fact, it turns out to be a sophisticated, often seductive mixture of dance and ambient music, with the filigreed atmospheres of numbers such as *A Wonderful Life* and the title track owing more to the 1970s boffin-bands Kraftwerk and Tangerine Dream than to the hectic routines of the four-on-the-floor, housequake brigade. The nine instrumentals combine futuristic keyboard textures with pattery, electronic percussion motifs in a way both mysterious and spry.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Singing the blues for Redhead

Paul Sexton talks to the reclusive Joan Armatrading about her unusual muse

Popular songwriters have drawn lyrical inspiration from a myriad of muses. Buddha, Beethoven or Beatie, seemingly no guru has gone without a nod or a namecheck. But few singer-songwriters have drawn creative inspiration from a presenter on Radio 4.

Last year, Joan Armatrading found herself moved to song by the death of *Today's* highly respected presenter, Brian Redhead. The results are on display in *Shapes and Sizes*, one of 13 new compositions by this consummate craftsman on her new album, *What's Inside*. Now 44 and invigorated by a new record deal with RCA, Armatrading sings: "Don't wait until it's over before you say it's all been fun... obituary columns are filled with love."

She was born in the West Indian heat of St Kitts and moved to England with her family when she was seven, so it might seem strange that the singer has long championed the British way of life: this is the woman who posed for the cover of 1978's *To the Limit* album with a copy of the *Beano* beside her on the couch, Radio 4, and the much-missed, mellifluous tones of Redhead in particular, are another passion, and now they have resulted in a typically ruminative Armatrading ballad.

"When he died," she says, "they had a tribute programme to him. All these politicians were saying how wonderful he was, and I just wondered why people wait until people have gone before they tell them nice things?"

For Armatrading to admit such specific inspiration is rare. Twenty-three years into her recording career, and 19 since her signature confessional song, *Love and Affection*, charmed its way into the Top 20, she has retained a closed book to journalists. Indeed, during this rare audience, before she rushed away to record her performance for this weekend's *Later With*



Joan Armatrading: moved by the death of Brian Redhead — "I wondered why people wait until people have gone before they tell them nice things"

Jools Holland, she sat forward, with hunched shoulders. For all her pleasant conversation, the body language almost screamed, "You won't be much longer, will you?"

She insists that her reticence is not based on any particular trauma at the hands of a prying reporter. "I don't particularly need to open every paper or turn on the television

‘No matter how obscure a song is, it's somebody's favourite’

and see myself," she says. "Normally I never do any television, and I could do without it, although I shouldn't be saying that."

This is the contradiction: that such a naturally reserved person should draw on intensely personal experiences for her songs, and then take them on the road and perform them with relentless zeal, as she has for two decades and as she will again on a month-long British tour starting in early September. "I want every home in the world to own an album [of mine]," she laughs. "I'm writing the songs for a lot of people to appreciate them. That's the whole point — not just that 20 people should like them, but as many as possible."

The reward comes not from press acclaim but from the response of her people, the truly devoted and attentive thousands who make up an Armatrading audience. "After the show, people will come up and say, 'We've travelled to see you from New York to Ham-mersmith' or wherever, and it makes you feel good."

She has not always known her own strength: sometimes, her careful reflections on love and loss have dramatically reshaped the lives of their listeners. One such song was the title track of 1980's *The Shouting Stage* album. "One of the people on the video I was doing recently came and told me that *The Shouting Stage* gave her the courage to leave her bloke, because they were at the shouting stage. It was just all too much, and when she heard that song, it really helped her."

What's Inside, recorded chiefly in Los Angeles with a dream team of musicians, including Darryl Jones from the Rolling Stones, Benmont Tench from the Heartbreakers, and other stellar sidemen such as Manu Katche and Tony Levin, marks the first time in five albums that Armatrading has worked with an outside producer. David Tickle produced 4 Non Blondes' highly successful debut album and, in earlier years, engineered Prince's *Around The World In A Day*, qualifications that helped him meet the specifications of the single-minded artist.

"I know what I want, and I need to know that the person I'm going to work with knows

how to do what he needs to do. David was really good, he was a pleasure to work with. In the nicest possible way, it was like working with an old-fashioned producer, such as Glyn Johns or Gus Dudgeon."

If, as some writers say, songs are like children, then Armatrading now has a huge and healthy family, and when concert crowds welcome the little ones back into their

playgrounds in September, some seven new toddlers will join one or two offspring that are almost out of their teens. "I like doing some of the old songs," she says. "And people like to hear them. No matter how obscure a song is, it's somebody's favourite."

● *What's Inside* is available now on RCA. Joan Armatrading appears on *Later with Jools Holland* tomorrow at 10.45pm on BBC2.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 P.U.L.S.E. Pink Floyd (EMI)
- 2 Singles Alison Moyet (Columbia)
- 3 Stanley Road Paul Weller (Gut Discs)
- 4 Nobody Else Take That (RCA)
- 5 The Colour of My Love Celine Dion (Epic)
- 6 P.H.U.Q. Wildhearts (EastWest)
- 7 Natural Mystic Bob Marley & The Wailers (Tuff Gong)
- 8 Tuesday Night Music Club Sheryl Crow (A&M)
- 9 A Spanner in the Works Rod Stewart (Warner Bros)
- 10 Grand Prix Teenage Fanclub (Creation)

Compiled by MRSB

NINE OUT OF TEN CATS PREFER TEENAGE FANCLUB

"Overall love seems to be TFC's driving force in 1995: not just romance but love as a healer, saviour, protector and lifelong friend. Heroically unfashionable it may be, but it makes for transcendently wonderful music."

8/10 Vox

"When you're knocking out art as traditionally fulfilling as this, suddenly the idea of fighting Plastikman for pop's Damien Hirst role seems less attractive. Welcome back the Fannies, doyens of, you know, proper painting."

4/5 Select

"This band's modest and stubborn pursuit of its own muse is a hundred times more revolutionary than the callow opportunism of more widely feted contemporaries, especially those whose names rhyme with cur."

Mojo

"Revving up for their own Grand Prix, Teenage Fanclub could well be heading for the No. 1 spot."

The Times

"It won't take Murray Walker to help us realise Teenage Fanclub have made one of the best four or five pop albums we'll hear this year, a record hewn from tradition that speaks for today and will endure well into tomorrow, and beyond. Sometimes love really is all you need."

9/10 NME

"...the wayward Glaswegians return with their strongest set of songs yet. Singalong strums and killer campfire moments for all those people who like Noel Gallagher more than Liam."

The Face

"Cynics will talk of curatorship and retro-obsessions but saner folk will simply revel in the abundant tunefulness, zest and melancholy of a great band."

4/5 Q Magazine

"What people who like Teenage Fanclub like about Teenage Fanclub: their glowing humanity, so that when those harmonies drench 'Say No' or the chorus to 'I'll make it clear,' you're immediately propelled to some fantastic place between Frank Capra and Bill Forsyth."

Time Out

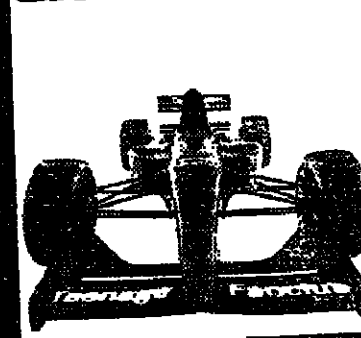
"How ironic it seems that men so utterly obsessed with history, posterity, lineage will soon be forgotten so fully, so quickly, so permanently! Onward Fannies onward all those who would follow! Go forth! Go forth into the dustbin of history!"

Melody Maker

"They are back, these masters of gutsy guitar-propelled melody. And so as fervent tune lovers we must kneel at TFC's molten plectra, worshipping and weeping for joy. Having first scooped to the nearest record vendor to buy this 13-song gem, of course."

Glasgow Herald

GRAND PRIX



OUT NOW
Includes the singles:
MELLOW DOUBT and
SPARKY'S DREAM

a creation records product
<http://www.musicbase.co.uk/music/creation/>



Eric Clapton's Rainbow Concert

with Pete Townshend, Rick Grech, Jim Capaldi, Ronnie Wood, Rebop Jimmy Karstein, Steve Winwood

with Pete Townshend, Rick Grech, Jim Capaldi, Ronnie Wood, Rebop Jimmy Karstein, Steve Winwood

with Pete Townshend, Rick Grech, Jim Capaldi, Ronnie Wood, Rebop Jimmy Karstein, Steve Winwood

with Pete Townshend, Rick Grech, Jim Capaldi, Ronnie Wood, Rebop Jimmy Karstein, Steve Winwood

with Pete Townshend, Rick Grech, Jim Capaldi, Ronnie Wood, Rebop Jimmy Karstein, Steve Winwood

Remixed and remastered with eight extra tracks including Layla, Crossroads and Blues Power.

Features Eric Clapton, Pete Townshend, Ronnie Wood and Steve Winwood.

OUT NOW
CD • MC • LP

KNOW HMV • KNOW MUSIC

Court of Appeal

Law Report June 2 1995

Court of Appeal

Murder intent of secondary party

**Regina v Powell
Regina v Daniel**
Before Lord Taylor of Gossforth,
Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice
Tucker and Mr Justice Forbes
[Judgment May 25]

It was sufficient to found a conviction of murder for a secondary party to a killing to have realised that the primary party might kill with intent to do so or with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. The secondary party did not have to hold such intention himself.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing appeals by Anthony Glasford Powell and Antonio Eval Daniels against conviction on February 25, 1994 in the Central Criminal Court (Sir Lawrence Verner, Recorder of London and a jury of murder of David Andrew Edwards, who was shot on May 29, 1993, for which they were sentenced to life imprisonment.

Mr Peter Feinberg, QC, for Powell, Mr Michael Wolford for Daniels, both counsel assisted by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, Miss Joanna Korner, QC and Mr William Boyce for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE.

Power to remit not available

Harrogate Borough Council v Barker
Before Mr Justice Harrison
[Judgment May 19]

Justices did not have an inherent power to remit a community charge debt under regulation 42(3) of the Community Charges (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations (SI 1989 No 438) once a term of imprisonment had been fixed or a warrant of commitment had been issued under regulation 41(3).

Mr Justice Harrison so held in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing an appeal by Harrogate Borough Council by way of case stated against the decision of Harrogate Justices on May 20, 1994, in which they remitted part of a community charge debt owed by the defendant, Kevin Barker, to the council and fixed a term of imprisonment postponed on condition that he pay the remainder of his debt.

giving the judgment of the court, said that it was the duty of the appellants, together with another man called at the deceased's home in south London.

Seconds after he had answered his doorbell, he had been shot at point blank range by one of the group and died a short while later. It was alleged to be a joint enterprise.

Powell, who gave evidence, said that the two appellants and another man "Mickie" who was not brought to justice, had arranged to go to buy some cannabis from a man known not to Powell as "B" and to the others, the appellant said he was present purely to purchase cannabis.

In *R v Hyde* [1991] 1 QB 134, three appellants had attacked the deceased and it was impossible to determine who had struck the fatal blow. Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, who gave the judgment in *Hyde*, following principles stated in *Chan Wing-siu v The Queen* [1985] AC 168, said at p139:

"If B realises (without agreeing to such conduct being used that A may kill or intentionally inflict serious injury, but nevertheless continues to participate with A in

the venture, that will amount to a sufficient mental element for B to be guilty of murder if A, with the requisite intent, kills in the course of the venture."

The direction of the Recorder of London in the present case followed that formulation almost verbatim, and it had been approved and followed in subsequent cases.

Mr Feinberg contended that those cases were all wrong in that they equated foresight with intent, whereas to prove a charge of murder against the principal actor or a secondary party the prosecution had to establish an intent to kill or cause grievous bodily harm.

The strongest support for Mr Feinberg's proposition was to be found in *R v Smith (Scott Alan)* [1988] Crim LR 816, of which a transcript of the judgment, given by Lord Justice Russell, stated that the judge did not make it plain to the jury that foresight was not of itself to be regarded as an intent, although it could properly be regarded as powerful evidence supporting the existence of the intent necessary to establish the offence with which Smith had been charged.

Despite those observations, their Lordships felt bound to follow and apply the *Hyde* formulation having regard to the approval it had received in a number of decisions in the Court of Appeal and to the fact that it was in accordance with *R v Maxwell* [1978] 1 WLR 1350 in which the House of Lords had warmly approved Sir Robert Lowry who, giving the judgment of the Court of Appeal of Northern Ireland, had said that the situation had something in common with that of two persons who agreed to rob a bank on the understanding, either express or implied from conduct, such as the carrying of a loaded gun by one person with the knowledge of the other, that violence might be resorted to.

The accomplice knew not that the principal would shoot the cashier but that he might do so; and, if the principal did shoot him, the accomplice would be guilty of murder.

If the result was an unacceptable anomaly it had now to be for the House of Lords or the legislature to say so.

The appeal failed. The court certified that a point of law of general public importance was involved in the decision but refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Solicitors: Miss Felicity Hildred, Harrogate.

As a matter of principle, it had been strongly argued that there was an anomaly in requiring proof against a secondary party only of a lesser mens rea than needed to be proved against the principal who committed the actus reus. That was taken up by the Law Commission in their consultation paper entitled "Assisting and Encouraging Crime" (No 131 1993).

The paper stated at p63: "First, it is one thing to think that a person should be guilty of murder if he engages in an unlawful enterprise and foresees that his co-adventurer may intentionally kill, but rather different to convict such a person of murder when he merely foresees that his co-adventurer may intentionally inflict serious injury."

Second, it is anomalous that in such a case the law now requires a less blameworthy mental standard for the non-acting co-adventurer than for the person who actually commits the murderous act."

Despite those observations, their Lordships felt bound to follow and apply the *Hyde* formulation having regard to the approval it had received in a number of decisions in the Court of Appeal and to the fact that it was in accordance with *R v Maxwell* [1978] 1 WLR 1350 in which the House of Lords had warmly approved Sir Robert Lowry who, giving the judgment of the Court of Appeal of Northern Ireland, had said that the situation had something in common with that of two persons who agreed to rob a bank on the understanding, either express or implied from conduct, such as the carrying of a loaded gun by one person with the knowledge of the other, that violence might be resorted to.

The accomplice knew not that the principal would shoot the cashier but that he might do so; and, if the principal did shoot him, the accomplice would be guilty of murder.

If the result was an unacceptable anomaly it had now to be for the House of Lords or the legislature to say so.

The appeal failed. The court certified that a point of law of general public importance was involved in the decision but refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters.

Vitol SA v Norell Ltd

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Hirst
[Judgment May 26]

An innocent party could not accept a repudiation of a contract merely by failing to perform his own obligations under it.

The respondent to an appeal against an arbitrator's award was not entitled in the Court of Appeal to raise uncertified issues in order to show that, even if the appellant succeeded on the certified point of law, the appeal should none the less be dismissed on other grounds.

Such issues could be raised only if the respondent was granted a certificate in the High Court and obtained leave either there or in the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by Vitol SA of Geneva against the dismissal by Mr Justice Phillips (The Times May 20, 1993; [1994] 1 WLR 1390) of its appeal against the award by Mr Justice Milgrom, QC, an arbitrator, in *Norell Ltd v Vitol SA*, of US\$388,894.50 damages and \$107,212.26 interest.

Section 1 of the Arbitration Act 1979 provides: "(7) No appeal shall lie to the Court of Appeal from a decision of the High Court on an appeal under this section unless— (a) the High Court or the Court of Appeal gives leave; and (b) it is certified by the High Court that the question of law to which the decision relates is one of general public importance or is one which for some other special reason should be considered by the Court of Appeal."

Mr Andrew Poplewell for Vitol; Mr Jeremy Cooke, QC, for Norell.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said on February 11, 1991 the parties entered into a contract for the sale

by Norell to Vitol of a cargo of propane for delivery March 1-7 at a price of US\$400 a tonne.

Loading was not completed until March 9. On March 8 Vitol sent Norell a telex repudiating the contract on the ground that delivery was overdue and would not be completed within the specified period.

The arbitrator held that the telex constituted an anticipatory breach of contract on Vitol's part.

On March 11 Norell informed Vitol by telex that loading had been completed on March 9. There was no further communication between the parties for five months. On March 15 Norell re-sold the cargo for US\$170 a tonne.

On August 9 Norell claimed the difference between the contract price and the price obtained at resale.

In the arbitration, Vitol had claimed that it was entitled to reject the cargo on various grounds, including the failure to load by March 7.

All the claims had been rejected by the arbitrator and the issue was whether Norell had been discharged from further performance of the contract.

The arbitrator had found that Norell's failure to take any further step to perform the contract was apparent to Vitol. It was both an acceptance by Norell of Vitol's anticipatory breach of contract and a sufficient communication of it to Vitol.

Mr Justice Phillips had decided that as a matter of law, mere failure to perform contract obligations could constitute acceptance of an anticipatory repudiation by the other party.

It was the ability of the innocent party to choose between acceptance of the repudiation and affirmation of the contract, courses attended by immediate and differing consequences, that made it

necessary for the choice to be clear and unequivocal.

A choice, however resolute, which gained no acceptance outside the bosom of the chooser could not be clear and unequivocal in the sense that the law required. Silence and inaction, being in the generality of cases equally consistent with affirmation of the contract, could not constitute acceptance of a repudiation.

An innocent party's failure to perform his own contractual obligations was only one kind of silence and inaction. It might not fall quite in the generality of cases because it might be inconsistent with the affirmation of the contract.

Nevertheless, however emphatic the repudiation, it remained equivocal and any acquiescence was fatal to acceptance of a repudiation: *State Trading Corporation of India Ltd v Vitol SA* [1989] 2 Lloyd's Rep 277, 280 per Lord Justice Kerr.

His Lordship agreed with the judgment of Lord Justice Hirst dismissing the respondent's notice, under which Norell sought to rely on its resale of the cargo as an acceptance of Vitol's repudiatory breach of contract. The appeal would be allowed.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said section 1 of the 1979 Act had fundamentally altered the procedure for appeals in arbitrations by drastically curtailing their scope.

The requirements were restrictive on appeal from the arbitrator but were even more so on an appeal from the High Court to the Court of Appeal: see section 1(7).

On an application for leave to appeal to the High Court against the award Order 73, rule 5(9) of the Rules of the Supreme Court stipulated that a respondent to an application for leave to appeal who desired to contend that the award

should be upheld on grounds not expressed or not fully expressed in the award, should lodge with the court and serve on the applicant a notice specifying the grounds for such contention.

There was no corresponding rule on appeals to the Court of Appeal.

Subject to compliance with that rule, a respondent whose argument was purely defensive could argue before the High Court that the award should not be set aside even if the appellant was right on the question of law addressed by the arbitrator: *The Koskas K* [1985] 1 Lloyd's Rep 231, 237 per Mr Justice Hobhouse.

However, the position at the Court of Appeal stage was quite different and in his Lordship's judgment it would be inconsistent with section 1(7) and contrary to the whole policy of the 1979 Act if the respondent were entitled to raise in the Court of Appeal uncertified issues of law, let alone issues of mixed fact and law, in order to show that, even if the appellant succeeded on the certified point of law, the appeal should none the less be dismissed on other grounds.

If the respondent wished to raise such a point he himself should apply to the High Court for a certificate and would only be entitled to pursue the point in the Court of Appeal if he was successful in that application, and obtained leave either in the High Court or the Court of Appeal.

The only proper role for the Court of Appeal under section 1(7) was to consider and resolve issues of law of general public importance on which leave to appeal had been granted.

Lord Justice Kennedy agreed with both judgments.

Solicitors: Holman Fenwick & Willan; Clyde & Co.

Postponement request constituted a claim

Savacentre Ltd v Inland Revenue Commissioners

Before Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Auld
[Judgment May 25]

A written application on behalf of a company to postpone payment of

corporation tax under section 55 of the Taxes Management Act 1970 so that excess advance corporation tax (ACT) could be set off against liability arising in earlier accounting periods constituted a claim for the purposes of section 239(3) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the company, Savacentre Ltd, from the refusal by Mr Justice Morritt ([1993] STC 344) of its claim for repayment supplement (equivalent to interest) on a sum of £17.8 million in respect of periods going back to 1984.

Mr Peter Whiteman, QC and Miss Marion Simmons, QC, for the company; Mr Alan Moses, QC and Mr Laurence Henderson, QC, for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE said that repayment supplement would be due to the company under section 825, unless the provisions of section 825(4) applied.

The issue was whether the repayment of £17.8 million was "in consequence of a claim by" the company under section 239(3).

The company's letter dated March 21, 1989, was in terms an application under section 55 to postpone payment.

But it was clear from it that the company was relying on its changed circumstances that gave

rise to its ability to set off £28 million ACT against its liability for corporation tax in earlier accounting periods.

However, it was submitted forcefully on behalf of the company that that letter did not constitute a claim because it referred expressly to an intention to make a future claim. That suggested that either the writer of the letter had wholly misunderstood the true position and the decision in *Fraser & Gamble Ltd v Tipton* [1990] STC 624, or that he was attempting to deceive the tax inspector.

The March 1989 letter would have been ineffective for its purpose unless it had made a claim under section 239(3) and the decision of Mr Justice Morritt that it did constitute such a claim and rejecting Mr Whiteman's submissions was correct.

Moreover, the agreement of revised figures by the tax inspector and the repayment of £17.8 million pursuant to it was in consequence of the claim made by the March 1989 letter. If there had been no letter and no claim, there would have been no agreement and no repayment. The judge was also correct in his conclusion on that issue.

Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Auld agreed.

Solicitors: Denton Hall; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Scots Law Report June 2 1995 Outer House

No natural justice in cross-examination refusal

Errington v Wilson

Before Lord Weir
[Judgment April 28]

Where a local authority sought an order for food to be destroyed on the ground that it was unfit for human consumption, and at the hearing before the magistrate there was conflicting scientific evidence, it was a denial of natural justice for the magistrate to refuse to allow cross-examination.

Lord Weir, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, pronouncing a decree of reduction of a decision of Mrs Elizabeth Wilson, a justice of the peace, to order the destruction of 44 batches of Lanarkshire Blue cheese manufactured by Mr Humphrey Errington, trading as Humphrey Errington & Co.

Section 9 of the Food Safety Act 1990 provides: "(5) ... any person who ... might be liable to a prosecution in respect of the food shall, if he attends before the justice of the

peace by whom the food falls to be dealt, be entitled to be heard and to call witnesses.

"(6) If it appears to a justice ... on the basis of such evidence as he considers appropriate in the circumstances, that any food ... fails to comply with food safety requirements, he shall ... order (a) the food to be destroyed ..."

Mr Michael Jones, QC, for the petitioner; Mr Colin Cullen for Mrs Wilson; Mr Colin Sutherland, QC and Mr Peter Milligan for Clydesdale District Council.

LORD WEIR said that at the hearing before the justice, the question had been whether the cheese was unfit due to the presence of a micro-organism known as *Listeria monocytogenes*.

Expert evidence had been led by both sides. The petitioner had been represented by senior counsel. The justice had been made aware before the hearing that he desired that the evidence be made subject to cross-examination, but had not

nounced that any questioning of witnesses had to be put through her. The justice's decision had been reached by preferring the evidence of the local authority's experts to that of the petitioner's expert.

The petitioner argued that section 9(5) showed that it had been envisaged by Parliament that the proceedings should be dealt with in a judicial manner: see *Cow v McDougall* [1909 JC 1]; *R v Board of Visitors of Hull Prison, Ex parte St Germain* (No 2) [1979] 1 WLR 1401.

The local authority submitted that it had been long established that a justice condemning food was acting in an administrative capacity and not judicially: *R v Cornwall Quarter Sessions, Ex parte Kerley* [1956] 1 WLR 906. The justice was required merely to act fairly. There was no duty to allow cross-examination since that fitted ill with administrative action of a necessarily speedy kind: see *Bushell v Secretary of State for the Environment* [1981] AC 77, 97 per Lord Diplock.

However, Kerley had been concerned with the putrefying state of

the meat of two dead cows. The court's emphasis on the need for speed was therefore understandable.

It was not clear that the same reasons were demonstrable in the present case. The fitness of the cheese was not a matter of immediate ascertainment but of scientific investigation and controversy.

Second, the ratio in *Kerley*'s case was whether the justice had been acting as a court of summary jurisdiction so as to allow an appeal to the Quarter Sessions.

Third, the analysis of Lord Goddard, Lord Chief Justice, there was to the position of a justice could not be regarded as correct viewed in the light of modern legislation.

Whether one characterised the actions of the justice as judicial or administrative, her decision had been liable to affect adversely the petitioner's rights and interests.

Accordingly, she had been under a duty to exercise her powers in accordance with natural justice: see *R v Birmingham City Justice, Ex parte Chris Foreign Foods (Wholesalers) Ltd* [1970] 1 WLR

1428; *Ridge v Baldwin* [1964] AC 40; *R v Commission for Racial Equality, Ex parte Hillingdon LBC* [1982] AC 779; *Furnell v Whangarei High Schools Board* [1973] AC 679.

That was emphatically so where the justice was obliged by statute to reach her decision on the basis of evidence. It could not be affirmed that in all circumstances a failure to allow cross-examination was necessarily unfair. Regard had to be had to the circumstances of the case and the extent to which prejudice might have resulted when cross-examination had been disallowed.

In the present case the refusal had been a denial of natural justice. The decision concerned a large batch of cheese valued, so his Lordship was informed, at about £37,000. The livelihood of the petitioner's enterprise had been said to be affected by the decision.

It had been evident that there was a conflict of opinion between experts. The justice herself had recognised that because she had resolved it by preferring the experts for the local authority.

Yet on a matter where scientists differed she had refused to give an opportunity for the evidence to be tested. Any judge with experience of attempting to evaluate the differing testimonies of experts would recognise the need for the premises upon which expert opinion was based to be thoroughly and carefully examined and for the qualifications and experience of those witnesses to be investigated.

By refusing to allow cross-examination, the justice had disabled herself from reaching a fully informed conclusion.

It was a matter of speculation as to whether, if she had allowed cross-examination, she would necessarily have reached a different conclusion. But it was not necessary for the petitioner to aver that the result was bound to have been different. The prejudice to him arose from the very fact of denial of a chance to test the strength of the evidence of the opposing experts.

Law agents: Morton Fraser & Milligan, WS; Skene Edwards & Carson, WS; Bonar Mackenzie, WS.

Purchaser cannot waive condition

Manheath Ltd v H. J. Banks & Co Ltd

Before Lord Gill
[Judgment March 16]

Where a contract of sale was subject to a suspensive condition that the purchaser would intimate to the seller the grant of planning permission before a specified date, and no such permission was granted by that date, the purchaser could not waive the condition.

Lord Gill, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, granting decree of declarator de piano that a contract between Manheath Ltd and H. J. Banks & Co Ltd, had been extinguished.

Mr James McNeill, QC and Mr Donald Rae for the pursuers; Mr Neil Braithwaite for the defenders.

LORD GILL said that by missives concluded on December 12, 1988 the pursuers had contracted to sell land to the defenders.

Condition 7.1 provided that the contract would remain conditional until intimation was given by the defenders that they had received certain planning permissions in

terms satisfactory to them. They had undertaken to prosecute diligently the applications for permission and to keep the pursuers informed of progress.

The contract provided that if permission was not obtained from the local authority, then the pursuers would be entitled to appeal to the secretary of state.

Condition 7.4 provided that if intimation was not made within five years, the contract would fall. On December 10, 1993 the defenders' agents had written to the pursuers to intimate with reference to Condition 7, that [it] was now purified, although no permission was granted. The pursuers' case was that since intimation had not been made, the contract was at an end.

The problems associated with such suspensive conditions had been considered in numerous cases. Most of those problems could have been avoided if the relevant condition had made express provision as to the purchaser's right to waive it.

The defenders' letter did not

intimate receipt of permission. It merely bore to intimate that condition 7 "is now purified". Since permission had not been received, it was not a valid intimation in the terms of the condition.

The pursuers submitted that *Imry Property Holdings Ltd v Glasgow Young Men's Christian Association* (1979 SLT 261, 265).

The next question was whether condition 7.1 had been validly waived by the defenders. If the letter could not be construed as a valid intimation in terms of condition 7.1, it could only be interpreted to mean that the defenders did not seek to take advantage of that condition to the effect of resiling from the bargain.

As a general proposition, a party could validly waive a suspensive condition only where it was consented to by the pursuers. The entitlement of the pursuers to appeal to the secretary of state disclosed an interest on their part in the obtaining of the permission on which the condition partly depended.

Moreover, where a contract itself, and not merely an offer or an

acceptance, was subject to a suspensive condition, as in this case, that was an indication that both parties had an interest in the condition (*Dewar & Fyfe Ltd v Blackwood* SLT 196, 197) and it was not conclusive (*Zehmoon Ltd v Akinbrook Investment Developments Ltd* (1987 SC 252, 258).

In this case, condition 7.4 did not merely confer an option on either party to resile, but provided that the whole bargain would automatically fall. That pointed even more strongly in the pursuers' favour than the corresponding provision in *Imry*.

The parties had not contemplated that the bargain would be concluded except on the basis that the relevant permissions would be obtained: see *Gilchrist v Playton* (1970 SC 380, 383).

Condition 7 disclosed a real and substantial interest on the part of the pursuers such as to preclude the defenders' right to waive the condition.

Law agents: Murray Beith & Murray, WS, Dundas & Wilson, CS.

Only one ship can be arrested in an action

Interatlantic (Namibia) (Pty) Ltd v Okeanskii Ribolov Ltd

Before Lord Cameron of Lochbroom
[Judgment April 11]

The Administration of Justice Act 1956 had incorporated into Scots law the rule in the Brussels Convention of 1952 that only one ship could be arrested on the dependence of an action.

Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, granting a motion by Bourgwell Ltd, for recall of an arrestment of the vessel *Afala* served by Interatlantic (Namibia) (Pty) Ltd purportedly on the dependence of an action of payment brought by them against Okeanskii Ribolov Ltd.

Section 47 of the Administration of Justice Act 1956 provides, inter alia: "(1) ... no warrant ... for the arrest of property on the dependence of an action ... shall have effect as authority for the detention

of a ship ... unless either (a) the ship is the ship with which the action is concerned, or (b) all the shares in the ship are owned by the defendant against whom that conclusion is directed."

Mr Stuart Nicoll for the pursuers; Mr Jonathan Lake for Bourgwell Ltd.

LORD CAMERON OF LOCHBROOM said that the defenders were domiciled in Bulgaria. Jurisdiction had been constituted by virtue of an arrestment executed by the pursuers against the defenders' vessel *Akalia* at Lerwick.

Bourgwell sought recall of an arrestment served on the *Afala*, which they claimed had been sold to them by the defenders.

The purpose of the 1956 Act had been to incorporate into the law of the United Kingdom the provisions of the Brussels Convention of 1952. Those provisions had been succinctly paraphrased by Lord Denning (Master of the Rolls, in *The Benno* [1971] 1 LL Rep 49,

52) where he had said: "It was agreed that one ship might be arrested, but only one. It might be either the offending ship herself or any other ship belonging to the same owner; but no more."

In *Gatoli International Inc v Arkwright-Boston Manufacturers Mutual Insurance Co* [1985 SLT 68, 71] Lord Keith of Kinkel had said that it was common knowledge that the 1952 Act, although its long title did not express it, had been passed to enable the UK to comply with the international obligations accepted by the parties to the Convention.

Bourgwell submitted that the purpose of the legislation was to restrict the right to arrest to one ship; that was properly to be deduced from the reference in section 47(1) to "a ship".

The pursuers submitted that the Act had not removed the common-law right to arrest more than one ship on the dependence of an in personam action, such as was the present *Diligence* on the Depen-

dence and Admiralty Arrestments Scottish Law Commission Discussion Paper No 84, paragraph 3(6).

The submissions for Bourgwell were to be preferred. There was no reason to interpret section 47(1) in any different manner from the interpretation of section 3(4) adopted in *The Benno*.

His Lordship did not consider that there was any substance in the purported distinction between an action in rem in England and an action in personam in Scotland.

There was insufficient material from which it could be positively asserted that when the arrestment had been served ownership had

Pitch offers Essex rare chance to turn season

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four: Nottinghamshire won toss): Essex, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 314 runs behind Nottinghamshire.

ESSEX could be backed at 50-1 for the county championship yesterday morning, starting odds on the first day of June for a team that has won the title five times in 12 years. This, however, promises to be an unusually anonymous summer for them unless they are accommodated on many more pitches that turn as prematurely as this one.

So short of seam bowling that they were obliged to give the new ball, and 22 overs, to Mark Waugh, Essex were doubtless grateful to find that Ron Allsopp, in his final year as the Nottinghamshire groundsman, had given the two ends of the same pitch used for last week's one-day international a severe shave.



Robinson: centurion

Peter Such and John Childs proceeded to bowl for most of the day and share seven wickets, spanning the odd ball dramatically, but Essex are not necessarily well placed. Tim Robinson, the Nottinghamshire captain, is another man about to shed a century from his duties but he added two contributions to Ashbury's initiative, winning 40 runs and then making a bright century. Before tea, Essex took six wickets for 37 but the last two wickets added a potentially crucial 96.

These are two counties central to the complexities involved in the move towards an English Cricket Board (ECB). Both are successful in their own way - Nottinghamshire as owners of a Test match ground and Essex proudly self-sufficient at the head of the smaller clubs. Their priorities, naturally, are different and it was for identifying a compromise route acceptable

to both factions that the re-organisation made on Tuesday by Alan Smith, chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board, was widely thought to be a triumph.

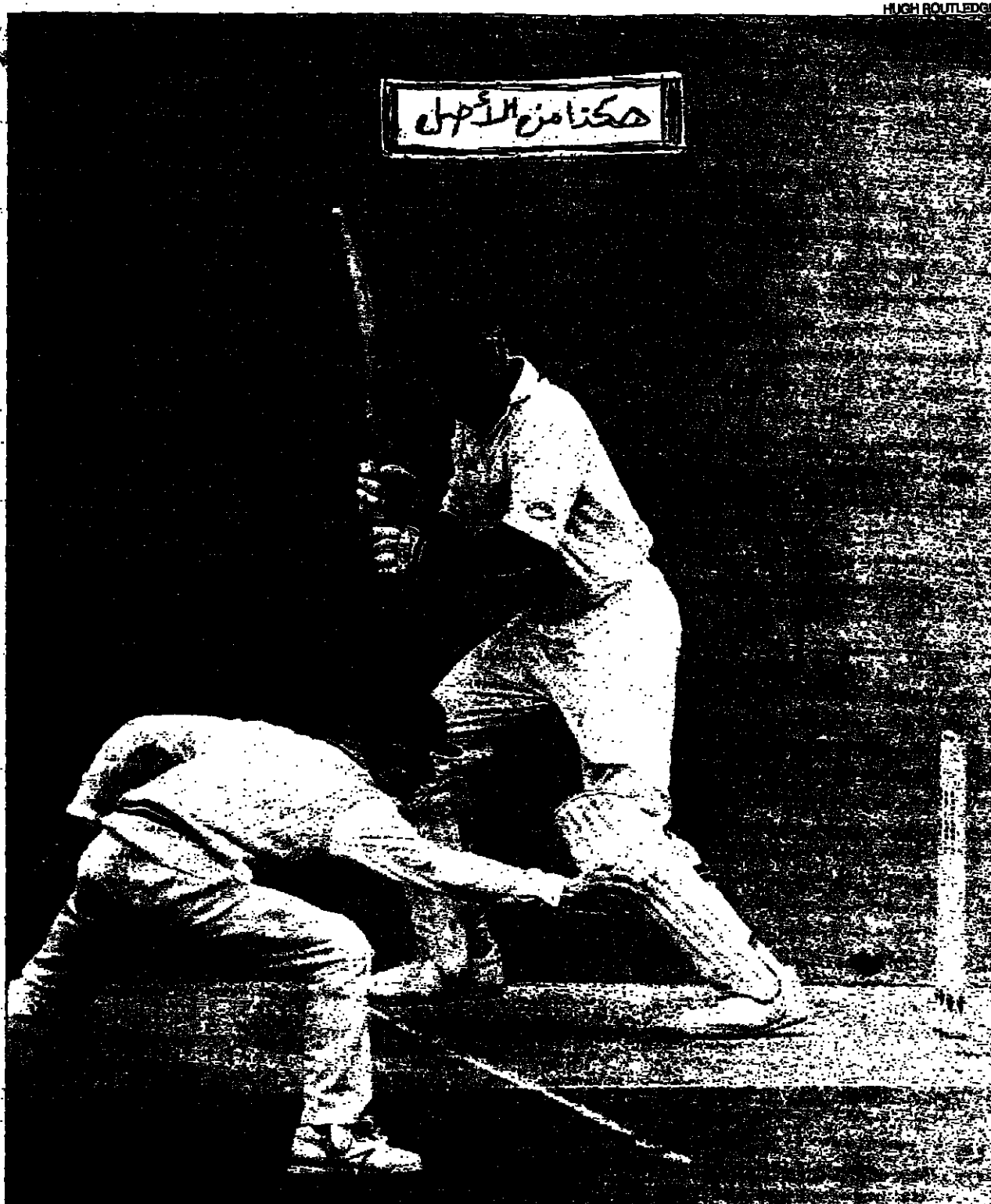
There is much to achieve yet, within a timetable involving debate and fine-tuning by the counties and another full meeting of the Board in August, but Smith remains hopeful that an ECB, responsible for cricket at all levels, could be in place by January. Whether he has subdued the claims by Nottinghamshire, and four other Test-playing grounds, that they deserve a bigger share of the annual revenue - the real thrust of their own unofficial blueprint - remains to be seen. For now, at least, a sense of unity has been restored.

Nottinghamshire finished third in last year's championship yet had the lowest gate receipts in the country. There was only a sparse crowd in yesterday, too, stalling their scorecards in vain for the season's first sighting of Chris Lewis in a championship match. His hip injury is causing genuine concern and a specialist's report, due today, may rule him out for most of what is likely to be his last summer in Nottingham.

Paul Johnson was also missing, tending his seriously ill daughter, and Essex's most prominent absentee was Mark Holt. His groin injury left Darren Cozens, 23, as the Essex spearhead but his first five overs cost 26 runs and he did not bowl again until splitting the final pair, Robinson, away to a flier, dominated a first-wicket stand of 107 with Downman before the spinners took a wicket each just before lunch.

Robinson reached his third century of the season, and his 54th in all, with a pull for four against the new ball, and he added 100 runs with a slower one, a century he may be, but Robinson remains among the most dependable of top-order batsmen and intends to play on when he hands over the captaincy, possibly to Johnson but conceivably to Chris Cairns.

The New Zealander, now fully fit, is the sort of positive character who might just be the making of this unfulfilled side. He made a forthright 50 here yesterday before becoming one of four victims of the 43-year-old Childs. Gooch, a strapping 41, was obliged to bat out the day's last over against the spin of Hindson - a case of things to come.



Rollins, of Derbyshire, beats the outstretched hand of Radford as he plodded to 61 at Lord's yesterday

Wells proves the driving force

By Michael Henderson

LORDS (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire have made 258 for six wickets against Middlesex.

COLIN WELLS has not enjoyed the best of times since he joined Derbyshire last season. As a Sussex all-rounder he belonged in the ranks of the good, verging occasionally on the very, but to be absolutely frank, the reason he is batting as high as five in this match has more to do with Derbyshire's lack of depth than with his irresistible form.

In 11 championship matches last year he failed to pass 50. This year he has now made three successive scores of more than 50, including a hundred at Oxford University. There was a century for the taking yesterday, as he shook the game out of its morning torpor with some powerful drives. Alas, he is

still waiting. On 81 he was leg-before to Fraser and Derbyshire failed to make the most of their opportunity.

It was not a particularly tolerant Fraser who took that wicket, his second of the innings. In the early afternoon, as Derbyshire were crawling along at two runs an over, he took the edge of Wells's blade. Wells was six at the time and a wicket would have exposed a long tail. Embury, at first slip, put down an unexceptional chance and Middlesex were left with more work to do than they would have liked.

John Carr was leading them in place of Mike Gatting, who is resting an injured groin. After ending last season in a blaze of glory, averaging 88 in championship cricket, Carr can hardly scratch a run this year. His slip fielding, however, remains outstanding. There is nobody better, and only two or three are as good.

Carr's two-eyed batting stance brought titers, or at least puzzled looks, when he chose to amend it. Nobody is laughing now; it serves him well. His "stance" at second slip also differs from the accepted method. He faces mid-wicket, rather than mid-on, until his right foot shifts off-wards at the moment of delivery, turning his body round like a surfer riding a small wave. The super snaffer was at it again here, holding on to Barnett's edged drive two overs before lunch. Dessau, making his championship debut for his new county, was the first to go, beaten all ends up by Fraser. Barnett, who is hardly a member of the Blockers' Club (hon sec: Bud Hill), had spent 38 overs over his 30 runs.

The morning session lacked colour and interest. Middlesex have had problems with both pitches so far for championship matches. The one against Hampshire was re-

ported and the one against Lancashire might easily have been. This one held no terrors and the bowling was respectable, no more. Derbyshire simply got it in their heads that, after their recent batting disasters, they had to grind through the day.

Let nobody accuse Rollins of not fulfilling his brief. When Embury finally beat him in the 83rd over, he had ground out 61 runs from 223 balls. He, too, must wait for that first championship century. Wells, having lit up the afternoon in a stand of 110, was unhappy to be fingered, as was DeFreitas, leg-before to Embury as he swept. Cork and Krikken survived the taking of the new ball to see out the day.

During the sixth Cornhill Test match against West Indies at the Oval, from August 24 to 28, Surrey will operate a resale scheme for tickets handed in by those leaving before the tea interval.

Rackemann makes immediate impact for Surrey

By Pat Gibson

WORCESTER (first day of four: Worcestershire won toss): Surrey, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 170 runs behind Worcestershire.

THIS match is being played on a pitch which seems to be closer to the cathedral than it is to the pavilion. Perhaps the Worcestershire players should have headed that way, too, to seek deliverance from the threat of their worst start to a county championship season for 68 years.

A higher authority may be necessary to explain why a side which is almost unbeatable in one-day cricket - they have won seven of their eight limited-overs games - have lost their first three four-day matches. On the other hand, it may be that their batsmen, Hick and Moody included, are just not getting enough runs.

It certainly looked like that yesterday. Stroke-making was never easy on a slow seaming surface with occasional uneven bounce against bowlers of the calibre of Rackemann, making his first appearance as Surrey's overseas player, and Benjamin, but that was no reason why they should lose their last seven wickets for 66 and their final four for 10 to collapse to 204 all out.

Surrey did not fare that much better, losing Stewart and Butcher to Haynes and Lampitt respectively in the evening sunshine, but at least they could take heart from the performance of Rackemann. The big blond Australian will be 35 on Sunday but he bowled well enough in helping Queensland to win their first Sheffield Shield earlier this year to be summoned to the West Indies when McDermott was injured and it did not take him long to make his mark in county cricket.

His greatest assets are consistency of length and line and the ability to make the ball bounce from only just short of a length. His sixteenth delivery did just that and Weston played on off his thigh.

Rackemann went on to bowl Curtis, who was only half forward to a ball which kept low, although it was Benjamin, who did not have quite such a profitable experience in Australia during the winter, who cut the heart out of the Worcestershire innings.

Butcher had taken the important wicket of Hick, caught at cover, before Benjamin captured three wickets, including that of the dangerous Moody, for five runs in 12 balls. He had just picked up a fourth when he had to go off with what looked like a recurrence of hamstring trouble. Rackemann quickly completed the job for him.

De Silva seizes initiative before hailstorm

By Geoffrey Wheeler

ARAVINDA DE SILVA, Kent's Sri Lankan batsman, had the fastest championship century of the season in his sights when a torrential hailstorm brought an early end to play in the game against Durham at Chester-le-Street yesterday.

De Silva had scored 79 from 68 balls when play was interrupted with Kent 144 for four from 35 overs, having gone in after the openers, Mark Benson and Trevor Ward, had been caught by David Ligertwood, the wicketkeeper, with the total 15.

He slashed his first ball, from Simon Brown, just wide of gully but otherwise gave the bowlers no encouragement. De Silva went to a 33-ball half-century, the fastest recorded against Durham, with a series of wristy strokes.

Only Manoj Prabhakar of Durham's regular seam bowlers was fully fit and Kent took full advantage. Despite having Matthew Walker well caught by the former Kent player, Jon Longley, off a skied pull, Melvyn Betts conceded 43 in six overs and Alan Walker fared little better in his first championship outing of the season.

Andrew Symonds, of Gloucestershire, whose 93-ball hundred against Surrey is the quickest so far this season, was again in dashing form against Sussex at Hove. The Australian's innings of 83, which included three sixes off Ed Giddins, enabled Gloucestershire to rally from 54 for five to reach 202.

Only Jack Russell of the other batsmen threatened permanence against the home-grown pace attack of Giddins, who took three for 79, and the left-armers, Jason Lewry, who, in only his seventh championship appearance, returned the splendid figures of six for 45.

The Gloucestershire seamers also found conditions to their liking but could not shift the county's former captain, Bill Athey, who has made 48 of Sussex's 113 for four.

The day's other six-wicket bowler, at a cost of 77 runs, was Glamorgan's West Indian, Hameesh Anthony, whose career-best return was mainly responsible for limiting Hampshire to 324 at Cardiff, where the Welsh county took maximum bowling points for the sixth time this season.

All of the Hampshire specialist batsmen got in but only John Stephenson and Mark Nicholas, who have both been in wretched form, managed to pass 50 as Anthony nagged away. Stephenson's 65 was his highest score for his new county, while Nicholas hit two sixes in his 75 before being bowled by Anthony.

Fledgeling Soweto take wing for tour

By Our Sports Staff

THE fledgeling Soweto Cricket Club from South Africa will begin a 15-match tour of Great Britain later this month.

Edward Cebekulu, the club chairman, and six officials will fly to London on June 29, returning on July 26, and will play matches in England, Ireland and Wales.

Until the mid-1980s, the now-defunct apartheid system ensured that the country's overwhelming black majority was exposed only to football and athletics.

In 1986, however, Ali Bacher, now managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, began holding coaching clinics in Soweto, Johannesburg's main satellite township.

More recently, South Africa's first team players, international coaches and visiting cricket Test players have become involved in the coaching and enthusiasm for the game has grown to the point where the Soweto Cricket Club was formed.

Bacher said the tour had been arranged and initiated by the club itself. "This just shows how much cricket has come of age in Soweto since the first clinics were held," he said.

The team's first overseas trip will be privately sponsored by, among others, Brian Lara, the West Indies Test batsman. Stribly Oppenheimer, wife of South African industrialist, Nicky Oppenheimer, members of the South African cricket team and CSI, the television distribution company.

Brannic Assurance county championship

Durham v Kent

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of four: Kent won toss): Kent have scored 144 for four wickets against Durham.

KENT: First Innings

T R Ward c Lightwood b Probst... 4
M R Benson c Lightwood b Brown... 10
M A Eastham c Lightwood b Brown... 10
P A C Shaw not out... 79
M J Walker c Longley b Bates... 6
G R Connelly not out... 6
Extras (lb 2, w 2, nb 2)... 144

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four: Nottinghamshire won toss): Essex, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 314 runs behind Nottinghamshire.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings

M P Downman c Hindson b Childs... 29
T R Robinson not out... 101
C Banton b Such... 48
C J Cole c Hindson b Childs... 50
J R Williams c Lewis b Such... 12
K P Sauer b Such... 13
W M Noon not out... 63
J E Hindson c Childs... 29
J A Arnold c Cozens... 29
Extras (lb 11, w 2)... 144

GLAMORGAN v HAMPSHIRE

CARDIFF (first day of four: Hampshire won toss): Glamorgan, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 512 runs behind Hampshire.

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

V P Toney b Wether... 24
R S M Morris c Hump b Thomas... 35
J P Stephenson c Mutton b Anthony... 36
R A Smith c Mutton b Anthony... 35
M C J Nicholas b Anthony... 32
G W White not out... 32
T A N Ayrton c Thomas b Anthony... 32
S D Usher b Anthony... 29
C A Cozens b Wether... 12
J N B Bost not out... 12
Extras (lb 1, w 2, nb 3)... 324

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-46, 2-88, 3-164, 4-171, 5-198, 6-222, 7-282, 8-290, 9-314.

BOWLING: Mutton 19-5-42, Anthony 22-3-17, Thomas 18-3-81, Dale 6-0-28, Croft 24-3-80, Kendrick 14-3-45.

GLAMORGAN: First Innings

A Dale c Stephenson b Carr... 5
H Morris not out... 0
J P Stephenson not out... 0
Extras (lb 2)... 2

TOTAL (11 wickets, 4 overs): 12

D L Hump, M P Maynard, P A Cooley, R D Croft, H A G Anthony, M C Kendrick, S D Thomas and V P Toney to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12

BOWLING: Cooley 2-1-4-1, Bost 2-1-4-0

Bonus points: Glamorgan 4 Hampshire 3

Umpires: J H Hares and B Leadbeater

Middlesex v Derbyshire

LORDS (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire have scored 258 for six wickets against Middlesex.

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings

N J Barmett c Carr b Fotherham... 30
M A Downman c Carr b Fotherham... 61
A S Balfour c Embury... 10
D J Cozens b Fotherham... 10
G W White not out... 10
P A C Shaw not out... 10
Extras (lb 1, w 2, nb 3)... 258

Sussex v Gloucestershire

HOVE (first day of four: Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 85 runs behind Gloucestershire.

GLoucestershire: First Innings

A J Wright c Salisbury b Giddins... 10
G D Hodgson b D Lewis... 12
M A Lynch c Lamborn b Giddins... 12
R J Dawson c Russell b Mervin... 6
M A Mervin b D Lewis... 11
A Symonds c Giddins b Lewis... 53
M C Russell b Salisbury... 27
J Smith b D Lewis... 7
M C G Ball c Lamborn b Lewis... 12
Extras (lb 1, w 1, nb 2)... 113

TOTAL (11 wickets, 18 overs): 113

Sussex: First Innings

C W J Athey not out... 48
W H Hask c Lynch b Mervin... 10
N J Lloyd c Russell b Mervin... 23
A P Wells b Mervin... 8
K Gervin c D and S Smith... 26
P J Moores not out... 12
Extras (lb 5, w 8)... 113

TOTAL (11 wickets, 48 overs): 113

Worcestershire v Surrey

WORCESTER (first day of four: Worcestershire won toss): Surrey, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 170 runs behind Worcestershire.

Worcestershire: First Innings

T S Curran c Rackemann... 40
W P C Weston b Rackemann... 4
G A Hick c Hollicock b Butcher... 16
M A Mervin c Stewart b Benjamin... 20
D A Lamborn c Mervin b Benjamin... 20
J S Rhodes b Benjamin... 24
S R Lampitt c Kersley b Hollicock... 14
R K Bingham not out... 4
N V Rhodes c Thorpe b Rackemann... 0
Extras (lb 1, w 1, nb 0)... 204

TOTAL (15.2 overs): 204

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-39, 3-76, 4-138, 5-138, 6-143, 7-194, 8-200, 9-200

BOWLING: Rackemann 18-5-55-4, Benjamin 12-5-47-4, Butcher 9-0-21-1, Pugh 17-5-50-0, Newell 7-4-17-0, Hollicock 3-0-11-1

Surrey: First Innings

D J Barmett not out... 19
M A Barmett c Benjamin... 7
A C G Pignat not out... 1
Extras (lb 1, w 2)... 2

TOTAL (10 wickets, 11 overs): 2

G P Thorpe, A D Brown, A J Hollicock, T S Curran, R W Newell, J E Benjamin and C G Rackemann to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-31

BOWLING: Newell 4-20-0, Harnes 6-4-6-1, Lampitt 5-2-5-1, Bingham 3-1-2-0

Bonus points: Worcestershire 1 Surrey 4

Umpires: G I Burgess and D R Shepherd

Youngest openers take advantage

By Ivo Tennant

TAUNTON (first day of four: Yorkshire won toss): Yorkshire have scored 269 for six wickets against Somerset.

MICHAEL VAUGHAN, 20, and Anthony McGrath, an England Under-19 batsman, constitute the youngest opening partners in Yorkshire's exhaustive history. They look the part. Their stand of 115 yesterday, coupled with a half century by David Byas, gave their innings a solidity that was altogether lacking earlier this week.

What Yorkshire would have given to have played their Benson and Hedges quarter-final on this pitch. Harry Brind, the Test and County Cricket Board's inspector of pitches, would have overseen preparations for the first Test match as a matter of course, but yesterday went earlier than expected to Headingley as a result of the fiasco that passed for a game of cricket there on Tuesday.

To reprimand Keith Boyce, the head groundsman, at a time when his wife has just died, would be reprehensible. Yorkshire, though, did once take the captaincy away from Geoffrey Boycott in the wake of the death of his mother, and it is evident that Boyce's job is far from secure.

All that, though, is of little concern to those who watch their cricket at Taunton, where the mushrooming of modernism cannot spoil a measured way of life. There was no Caddick, no van Troost and no Rose yesterday, so Somerset did pretty well to restrict Yorkshire as they did. Mushtaq Ahmed had much to do with this, taking three wickets in a lengthy bowl.

This, apparently, was the first decent pitch Yorkshire have had for a championship match this season. The upshot was their highest opening stand thus far, between Vaughan and a partner who is 19 and making only his third first-class appearance. McGrath is upright and, as they say, smells the ball. Given the chance he drives, and handsomely.

The pair put on 115 in 53 overs. Most attacks they face this season will be infinitely more wasteful, so this was a time to gather runs and self-confidence. It took an excellent low catch by Trump at cover point, the kind that he rarely misses, to remove Vaughan. McGrath, whose 84 came off 202 balls and included 11 fours, was eventually yorked by a quicker ball from Mushtaq that deflected off the bottom of his bat onto his left heel and into the stumps. It was an unsatisfactory dismissal, but, rest assured, we shall hear more of him.

The best batting after that came from Bevan, who used his feet delightfully to the spinners, and from the left-handed Byas, who has the reach to bisect a cover ring. Both fell to Mushtaq's gooley, the Australian sweeping and Byas completely fooled by one that turned considerably. His 66 came off 146 balls and included nine fours.

Trump, too, deserved his wickets. White played on and Blakey was bowled by one that he was too late in smothering. Since Yorkshire were at various stages of their innings 115 without loss and 235 for two, Somerset would have been far from dispirited at the close of play.

We can't control the results but we can control your excess acid.

Percid AC

WE CONTROL YOUR ACID. YOU GET ON WITH LIFE.

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. CONTAINS FAMOTIDINE

New Zealand emerge as favourites by expanding on traditional virtues

Old Black magic with new dimension

FROM GERALD DAVIES
IN JOHANNESBURG

NEW ZEALAND arrived in South Africa almost unnoticed. Unlike the attention that was paid to South Africa, Australia, England and France, the much-fancied countries, they were barely visible, as if they had travelled under cover of darkness.

Rarely, if ever, in their long and distinguished history had they been placed in such a subordinate role. This was a strange condition for them and one with which their captain, Sean Fitzpatrick, was content. "We don't mind being tagged the underdogs," he said. "It means we have a point to prove."

After their two games, they are making not one point but several. From merely being numbered down the pecking order among the five prominent countries, they are now the front-runners. The transformation has been swift and clinical. This judgment, you



Lomu, right, with Kronfeld in support, displays the power against Wales that has made him the phenomenon of the World Cup

RUGBY
WORLD CUP

may say, is premature. The tournament, after all, is still at the pool stage and sterner tests lie ahead. Of course, there is some truth in this. But what has elevated the All Blacks from the rest is the clarity with which they have demonstrated their potency.

While others still talk of their team's potential, New Zealand are giving proof of theirs. They have been impressive. There are those who point out that the two teams they have encountered so far have lacked the necessary skills and power to put them to the test. But Ireland and Wales have reputations that are at least recognisable at this level in a way that some countries in the tournament have not.

Neither of these two five nations' championship teams is as formidable as in times past, but New Zealand are likely to be more wary and respectful of them than they would be of, say, Italy, Romania and Canada, against

whom England, South Africa and Australia have recently played and been less than convincing.

Reputation, admittedly, is one thing, realisation another. By exerting their commanding presence, the All Blacks dismantle reputations and once the difference in standard is manifest on a field they expose it ruthlessly. Pride in their own good name insists that the discrepancy must be reflected on the scoreboard. They drive the points home. Nobody is left in any doubt

who the masters are. Ireland and Wales know this.

Understanding the requirements and the nature of rugby, the All Blacks adapt their strategy according to the needs of the match of the day and their tactics to the run of play.

They arrived with a reputation for having embraced a new style of game. Evidence suggested that nowadays they go happily in search of the spaces and show an unfamiliar alacrity to exploit the width of the pitch, even from set-

piece play rather than just the looser phases.

Against Ireland they attempted this but did not completely succeed. On Wednesday night, they reverted to their truer selves, pursuing victory through the remorseless momentum of their back row and the judicious guidance of their half backs. The old virtues were there in abundance and there emerged more exciting and riveting talent.

As Jonah Lomu exploded onto the scene against Ireland,

so Andrew Mehrtens and Graeme Bachop, the half backs, galvanised attention against Wales. Bachop executed immaculate passes and sent teasing kicks just ahead of his pack, while Mehrtens launched the heavy artillery.

These kicks, by the 22-year-old stand-off half, were consistently in the 40 and 50 metre range. One, however, from his own 22, came to rest near one of Wales's corner flags. This was dispiriting for Wales. Others have also emerged, such as Glen Osborne, at full

back, who is growing into his attacking role. Josh Kronfeld already seems to be the master of his, the 24-year-old flanker having been ubiquitously influential against Wales.

Thus New Zealand have started better than anyone else. They are powerful, pacy and packed with all the correct skills. Naturally, they are playing it all down. There is a long way to go. But they understand, with the iron will of theirs, that it is going to take an extraordinary team to stop them.

Unspectacular progress keeps the pressure off

Rob Andrew, the England stand-off half, says the players are happy to be through with public attention focused elsewhere

Qualification for the World Cup quarter-finals was the first priority for England and, if we have done it without creating much of an impression, so much the better. The players are happy for the spotlight to shine elsewhere. Few people believed us when it was suggested that pool B would be the most difficult. There are no excuses for poor ball retention, for having kicks charged down or throwing bad passes, but nobody should belittle the countries in our pool: I feel for the Argentina forwards, who have played so well but will be going home after this weekend, and Italy's display against us shows that they are worth a place in the five nations' championship.

On the evidence so far, this tournament has come on a league from that of 1991, in terms of pace, intensity and fitness. The organisation of teams such as Italy has created a higher standard all round: there are, perhaps, three countries who are walkers and, of those, Romania showed a gritty determination against South Africa.

England's effort against Italy was far from comprehensive but it was considerably more positive than the sleepy display against Argentina. We wanted to be more flexible, to chop and change the lineup and move the ball away from the set pieces more quickly. The aim was to get the props running from short lineouts, to work the back row off either Kyran Bracken or me. England are good at achieving first-phase possession but, to disrupt defences, we need to get over the gain line more than once.

Defences here are so tight, and sometimes so offside, that you have to use the big men to create room for the backs. Or you have to out-strip them, and we don't have quite the confidence to do that yet. We have had to adjust to the pace, which is a

physical and a mental problem. In five nations' rugby, there is aggression and intensity and action, but then it stops. Everyone has a breather and it begins again. Here you can't stop for a minute and you don't react quickly enough — players have to get up, realign themselves in defence or attack. You can't hang around.

Our support at the breakdown, and what happens once we arrive, must improve. Any player isolated has three bodies over him immediately and either he loses possession, or he is penalised for hanging on to the ball in the tackle, or possession becomes so slow it's hardly worth having.

It was a shame that the match with Italy was played in wet conditions: we wanted a dry day so that we could play positive rugby, but the ball was slippery. We soon discovered that Italy had done their homework. The blind side was packed with defenders while the Italians themselves have half backs who know what they're doing and a good supply of lineout ball from Pedroni, their front jumper.

Now we face Western Samoa with problems of selection and how to play the game. There is no question of throwing the game for the sake of an easier quarter-final — which of South Africa or Australia is easier? — but consideration must be given to resting players who have already come through two hard games in five days so that they are fresh for the knockout stages next week.

We have to keep the winning habit and there's a stickability about England that will make the other sides think. Now we have reached the quarter-finals, I hope we can relax against the Samoans because, after that, it's do-or-die.

Interview: David Hands

Bottoms firmly clenched, the blazer brigade take a break

The organisers of the 1995 rugby union World Cup decreed that there should be wall-to-wall games on Wednesday followed by 48 hours' sabbatical. Supporters with broader interest than sport have booked themselves on tours of game reserves — such as Kruger Park — where they can buy lion-friendly T-shirts inscribed "Eat Before June 12". A one-day steam train excursion, including lunch, is available at £15.

For the rest, the Irish can be found in McGinty's at the Holiday Inn — which is a favoured source of Guinness in Johannesburg. Japanese, now they have nothing to cheer but the punctual departure of their planes home, are out buying mementoes in the shopping malls where they stare at kugels: young local women who shop as a way of life. They are identifiable by long hair, short skirts, high-heeled boots, prominent cleavages, gold chains: they greet each other with the words "Hello. Howzit?"

Will Carling's famous aside has had an extraordinary effect on rugby union officials, who seem to have abandoned the blazers and the swagger that goes with the job: they now walk about trying to look young with their bottoms firmly clenched.

As a consequence of the home team's safe progress into the quarter-finals, the sports pages are nicely relaxed; use their space considering the opposition; Wales have been dubbed "an endangered species"; England's team is criticised for its sloppiness, Ireland's chances are not taken very seriously; only Scotland commands respect.

Even after four matches on the previous day, rugby has to share headlines with local soccer, golf and tennis. On the morning news, I learnt that Mats Wilander was bitten by Wayne Ferreira... my alarms subsided when they gave the score by which the South African bit the Swede.

Television shows late-night replays of the games with their curious mixture of commentary: 50 per cent in English, 30 per cent Afrikaans, ten per cent each Zulu and Sotho. We seem to play best when the commentary is in Zulu, but that may just be a coincidence.

Interest is centred on tickets for the knockout stages and the problem of whom to support in the game tomorrow between Tonga and Ivory Coast at Rustenburg. Neither team can qualify for the last eight, and this nation, which, when in doubt, supports the underdog, is finding it difficult to determine which of these



dogs is underdog. I shall be there. I may be the only person on the terraces.

On the perimeter road of the circuit that hosts the Grand Prix, eight miles north of the city, is the Kyalami Theatre: five large screens show live rugby action. That will be full. Local companies have reserved all tables for corporate entertainment and a book-maker hovers. You can get even against Tonga minus eight points, or buy Ivory Coast plus seven at 11-10.

What is of commanding interest in and away from the stadiums is the language of the people of this country. They speak like graduates of the Loyd Grossman academy of vowels and use words, especially adjectives, that baffle the philologists. *Sazly* means not very nice... such as "the film I saw was *sazly*" which means it was fractionally better than *drek* — African-speak for yucky, but not as bad as *vrot*... rotten.

Watching too much football on television makes you

verlep, literally floppy, worn out, and the bling you buy at half-time is *lekker*, which is between nice and delicious, though, to me, it tastes like a Chelsea boot.

Rather as the people of Ulster finish sentences with the word "but", the South Africans say *nogal*, pronounced *nochal*, as in "Italy nearly beat England *nogal*". Ask someone how they enjoyed the game and you might be told "ja no well fine".

One of the most endearing, also the best-read strip cartoon in South African newspapers, is *Madam and Eve* in *The Johannesburg Star*. *Madam* is a white Afrikaner housewife; *Eve* her streetwise black maid. And rugby has now entered this suburban scenario, *nogal*. Yesterday, *Madam*, sitting with a gin and tonic in her hand, asked Eve "where is the lemon?" which in the next picture comes, rugby ball-shaped flying through the air and is caught safely in Eve's hands — just what Ireland failed to do at Blomfontein on Wednesday.

If there is one thing missing, it is an upset: it looks as if we shall have to wait until next week, if not longer. Meanwhile, the sun shines and the natives, when not talking business on their cellphones, are distinctly friendly.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is a hand from a Middlesex Cup Match between Ivor Miller's team and Gary Jones's team.

Dealer South Love all IMPs

♠ A Q 10 8 7			
♥ 8			
♦ A K 6 4 3			
♣ 10 7			
♠ 9 6 5 3	N	♠ K	
♥ K 9 6 4	W	♥ J 10 5 3 2	
♦ 7	E	♦ 10 8 5 2	
♣ J 5 3 2	S	♣ 9 6	
		♠ J 4 2	
		♥ A Q 7	
		♦ Q J	
		♣ A K Q 8 4	

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: seven of diamonds.

South for the Jones team opened 2NT and North bid Three Hearts, a transfer bid showing at least five spades. South bid Three Spades and after bidding Four Diamonds North drove the bidding to Six Spades. How should South play on the diamond lead?

In practice South won the diamond in hand and finessed the queen of spades. East won the king of spades and gave his partner a diamond ruff. I was asked whether I thought the declarer should play the ace of spades, on the basis that the lead was probably a singleton and therefore it was safe for the declarer to lose a spade trick to West. Playing ace and another spade would stop the diamond ruff whenever East had the singleton king of spades or Kx.

I think this is the correct line, but every now and then it will lose to clever Wests who have led a diamond from five, holding Kx of spades — now after ace and another spade West will be able to give his

partner a diamond ruff. At the other table North played Six Spades. East led a heart, and after winning the king of spades punched declarer with another heart. When East showed out on the second spade declarer's best line was to unblock the QJ of diamond before running trumps. West ruffed the second diamond, so again the contract went one down.

There is a charity 'Marathon' event at Harold Schoogers' 77 Bridge Club in Hendon, commencing on Saturday 10th June. The first session is the Epsom World Simultaneous Pairs, followed by five more sessions ending 22 hours later. 80% of the charity money goes to Leukaemia Research and 20% to the Macababiah team representing England in Israel in July. Enquiries: 0181-349-9252.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BIBLICALS
AGABUS
a. A Philistine god
b. A Christian prophet
c. Brotherly love

HANNAH
a. A female disciple
b. A gleaner with Ruth
c. Mother of Samuel

TAMAR
a. Ritual cleansing
b. Mother of John
c. Daughter of David

CALEB
a. A minor prophet
b. A pilgrim father
c. A high priest

Answers on page 42

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov's advance

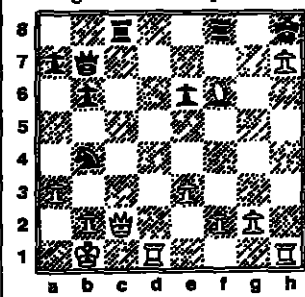
Garry Kasparov has moved into a seemingly commanding lead in Novgorod with a dramatic win in round five against Rafael Vaganian. His performance rating is now an extraordinary 3,001 international points. Nigel Short also won against the American Grandmaster, Boris Gulko, to share second place. Short, who is heading for one of his best tournament achievements, has a rating of 2,787.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Rafael Vaganian
Novgorod, June 1995

Queen's Gambit Declined

1	d4	e6
2	c4	c5
3	Nc3	Ne7
4	Nf3	Nf6
5	Bd4	O-O
6	e3	c5
7	dxc5	Bxc5
8	Oc2	Nc6
9	a3	Qa5
10	O-O-O	Ba7
11	h4	Qxc4
12	Bxc4	b6
13	Ng5	Ba8
14	Nc4	g6
15	Nd6+	Bd6
16	Ne4	Bc7
17	Bxc6	Qxc6

Diagram of final position



Blindfold feat

Chess master Paul Lamford, editor of the magazine *Games and Puzzles*, will attempt an extraordinary mental feat to raise funds for the Royal National Institute for the Blind tomorrow from 10am at the Glades Shopping Centre in Bromley, Kent. Lamford will be playing chess, bridge, backgammon and Scrabble simultaneously whilst blindfolded. Further information from the RNIB (01580 754880).

Rash of tournaments

In the aftermath of the 1993 world championship in London a vast number of international level tournaments have sprung up in the UK. Jonathan Rowson, of Aberdeen, won the category 4 Tyneside international, the latest to finish, with eight points from nine, securing an international master result.

World championship

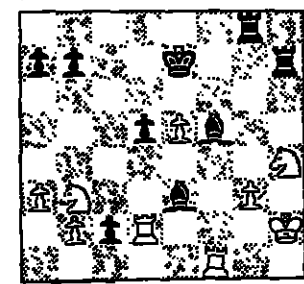
Intel, the sponsors, have announced that the 1995 PCA World Championship between Garry Kasparov and Viswanathan Anand will take place in the Rheinhalle, Cologne from September 10 to October 14. The prize fund is \$1.5 million.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Bendarevsky-Botvinnik, Moscow 1941. Black can win easily enough with 1... Bxd2, gaining rook for bishop. However, he found a much more effective (and attractive) way to play. Can you see what he did?



Solution on page 42

WORLD CUP DETAILS

All times BST

YESTERDAY

Pool C
New Zealand 34 Wales 9
New Zealand: Thos. Little, Ellis Kronfeld, Coos. Mehrtens 2, Pini. Mehrtens 4, Dropped goal: Mehrtens. Wales: Piers. Jenkins 2, Dropped goal: Jenkins.

(Johannesburg)

PROGRAMME

Pool A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Africa	2	2	0	0	48	28	6
Australia	2	1	0	1	45	38	4
Canada	2	1	0	1	45	30	4
Romania	2	0	2	1	11	85	2
RESULTS: South Africa 27 Australia 18 (Cape Town), Canada 34 Romania 3 (Port Elizabeth), South Africa 21 Romania 8 (Cape Town), Australia 27 Canada 11 (Port Elizabeth).							
REMAINING MATCHES: Tomorrow: Australia v Romania (Johannesburg, 2.00pm), South Africa v Canada (Port Elizabeth, 7.00pm).							

Pool B

W	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Samoa	2	2	0	0	74	44	8
England	2	2	0	0	51	38	6
Argentina	2	1	0	1	69	71	4
Italy	2	0	2	0	38	69	2

RESULTS: Western Samoa 42 Italy 18 (East London), England 24 Argentina 18 (Durban), Western Samoa 22 Argentina 26 (East London), England 27 Italy 20 (Durban).

REMAINING MATCHES: June 4: Argentina v Italy (East London, noon), England v Western Samoa (Durban, 7.00pm).

Pool C

W	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Zealand	2	2	0	0	77	28	6
Ireland	2	1	0	1	69	71	4
Wales	2	1	0	1	66	44	4
Japan	2	0	2	0	38	107	2
RESULTS: Wales 57 Japan 10 (Blenfontein), New Zealand 43 Ireland 19 (Johannesburg), Ireland 50 Japan 26 (Johannesburg), New Zealand 34 Wales 8 (Johannesburg).							
REMAINING MATCHES: Tomorrow: Australia v Romania (Johannesburg, 2.00pm), South Africa v Canada (Port Elizabeth, 7.00pm).							

Ireland v Wales (Johannesburg, 4.00pm)

W	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	2	2	0	0	130	5	6
France	2	2	0	0	52	28	6
Tonga	2	0	0	2	15	79	2
Ivory Coast	2	0	2	0	18	143	2
RESULTS: Scotland 69 Ivory Coast 10 (Pretoria), France 54 v Ivory Coast 18 (Rustenburg), Scotland 41 Tonga 5 (Pretoria).							
REMAINING MATCHES: Tomorrow: Tonga v Ivory Coast (Rustenburg, 4.00pm), Scotland v France (Pretoria, 4.00pm).							

Top two in each pool qualify for quarter-finals. In pool matches, three points are awarded for a win, two for a draw, one for a loss and none for failing to appear. If teams finish level on points, the result between them will determine the higher placing; if that was a draw, the number of tries scored will determine.

Quarter-finals

W	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	2	2	0	0	10	10	7
France	2	2	0	0	10	10	7
Argentina	2	1	0	1	10	10	4
Australia	2	1	0	1	10	10	4
Canada	2	1	0	1	10	10	4
Japan	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
RESULTS: England 10 Argentina 10 (Johannesburg), France 10 Australia 10 (Johannesburg), Canada 10 Japan 10 (Johannesburg), New Zealand 34 Wales 8 (Johannesburg).							
REMAINING MATCHES: June 4: New Zealand v Japan (Blenfontein, 2.00pm); England v France (Johannesburg, 7.00pm).							

June 11: pool B winner v pool A runner-up, Cape Town (noon); pool C winner v pool D runner-up, Pretoria (2.30pm)

Semi-finals
June 17: Durban winner v Johannesburg winner, Durban (5pm)
June 18: Cape Town winner v Pretoria winner, Cape Town (2pm)

Third-place play-off
June 22: Pretoria (4pm)

Final
June 24: Johannesburg (2pm)

LEAGUE TABLE

Player	T	P	D	C	Pts
G. Hastings (Scot)	5	10	0	10	75
T. Laczko (Fr)	4	6	0	10	45
R. Andrew (Eng)	0	11	2	1	4
A. Heberts (NZ)	3	8	1	5	3
D. Kallit (W. Samoa)	1	7	0	4	3
N. Jenkins (Wales)	0	6	1	5	3
J. Lynch (Aus)	0	6	1	5	3
G. Rees (Can)	0	6	1	5	3
J. Stranely (SA)	1	4	1	5	3

Tough talk leaves Wales with no place to hide

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
IN PRETORIA

IT IS one thing to be confident, something quite different to be cocky. Alex Evans, the Wales coach, and Geoff Evans, the team manager, were cocky about the likelihood of Wales beating New Zealand on Wednesday night when they should have been confident.

Alex Evans, a talkative and personable Australian, was full of Wales's chances on the eve of the game in Johannesburg. "This squad is good enough to beat the All Blacks at Ellis Park," he said. "They know they can and I know they can and that is what is important." The last time Wales beat New Zealand was in Cardiff in 1953.

Geoff Evans was, if anything, more outspoken. When the Wales team was announced, he said: "We're fitter, faster and stronger than the All Blacks." That was a breathtaking remark to make. What the former London Welsh and British Isles player had to say about Jonah Lomu, the remarkable New Zealand wing, was rather more cute.

Evans heard the inevitable suggestions that the beefy and speedy All Black threequarter would be a handful for Iwan Evans, Wales's left wing, and perhaps a match-winner for his country and then said, firmly: "The question is not so much what Jonah Lomu will do to Iwan Evans but what Iwan Evans will do to Jonah Lomu." Most of these remarks came back to haunt Wales on Wednesday.

The more the game wore on, the clearer it became that Wales were patently not fitter, faster or stronger than the All Blacks. Even Evans's psychological barb about Lomu did not work because New Zealand switched him to the right wing at the last minute. From there he set up the final try in a 34-9 victory for Josh Kronfeld after a bullocking run.

Perhaps the Welsh management will take a more considered view before the decisive pool C match against Ireland in Johannesburg on Sunday, the winner of which will qualify behind New Zealand for the quarter-finals. The Irish flew from Bloemfontein to Johannesburg yesterday to find Shane Byrne, the replacement hooker for Keith Wood, who has a shoulder injury, had arrived in South Africa.

The 23-year-old student had been watching Tuesday's match against Japan on television at home when he received a call from Pat Whelan, Ireland's assistant coach. Whelan phoned from a mobile telephone in the stands in Bloemfontein to tell Byrne to get his kit together and catch the first available plane.

Berbizier takes a hands-on approach for Scottish clash



Berbizier, the France coach, demonstrates a point in training yesterday, as France prepare to meet Scotland. Photograph: Howard Burditt

Enigmatic French seek variation

FROM JOHN HOPKINS

THE French, never ones to be anything other than chic, have some cheek. While Scotland and almost every other team in the World Cup are quartered in hotels that could be in any city in the Western world, complete with room service and international direct dialling, France have found truly African accommodation ten miles outside Pretoria.

Take the French coach, for example. He is a man of few words, a dusty, red-faced man with a mustache and a large nose, and a large nose. He is a man of few words, a dusty, red-faced man with a mustache and a large nose. He is a man of few words, a dusty, red-faced man with a mustache and a large nose.

In these exotic surroundings, France coach, Guy Laporte, the team manager, held court, with his match against Scotland tomorrow. It was not the sort of the Sun King, but it was a typically idiosyncratic Celtic court, nonetheless. Berbizier and Laporte, who played alongside each other for their country, eschewed the formal uniforms worn by the management of other teams. Berbizier, who had a glass of beer in front of him, wore jeans and a T-shirt, while the track-suited Laporte was both smoking and drinking. Vive la difference.

In winning 60 caps for France as a scrum half, Berbizier developed broad shoulders, which is just as well because the weight of expectations on him is considerable. He knows that his job as coach of the country that invented the guillotine is no sinecure. When Berbizier was asked his title by a television interviewer, he replied, sagely: "for the time being I am the coach to the French team."

There is an edge to this match, one deeply felt by the Scots, who claim their honour has been impugned. Earlier in the week, Laporte told a French reporter that the Scots had damaged a restaurant where they had eaten dinner in Pretoria. A story to this effect appeared in a Johannesburg newspaper and the Scots saw red. They were, anyway, in high dudgeon at the time at

not being paid the £8,000-odd tour allowance by the South Africa Rugby Union (Saru) that was due to them.

A Scottish tabloid newspaper ran a headline "Lying Progs At It Again" and referred to Laporte as a "feisty frog". Duncan Paterson, the Scotland manager, who can

Francis Pienaar returns as captain of South Africa, who make five changes for their final pool A match against Canada in Port Elizabeth tomorrow. Also back are Andre Joubert, Joel Stransky, Hannes Strydom and James Dalton.

SOUTH AFRICA: A. Joubert, J. Stransky, J. Pienaar, G. Pienaar, J. Dalton, M. Hume, H. Strydom, R. Brink, A. Richter.

sometimes be reluctant to let a smile pass over his face, reportedly demanded an apology from the sports editor of the newspaper that published the story — and then was overheard to say that if he did not get it he would send around a couple of his boys. For the French, this was a

storm in a teacup and with a commendable display of savoir-faire, Berbizier made light of it. "We smashed up one restaurant last night, so it is 2-1 to the Scottish so far," the France coach joked. "After the game on Saturday, France and Scotland are going to smash every restaurant in Pretoria."

The significance of the game is that the winner will have the easier quarter-final — against either Wales or Ireland — whereas the loser will play New Zealand. And Berbizier, as well as anyone, knows it is time that France delivered a worthy performance after two moderate victories in the five nations' championship — and a narrow defeat by Scotland — and then hardly sparkling victories over Tonga and the Ivory Coast in the first two pool D matches.

"I expect much more from this French team — and I expect you do, too," he said. "Everyone wants to play with style — even England. The French are looking for champagne rugby and hope to show you champagne rugby and some style." Yet, such is the unpredict-

ability of France, it is possible they could lose to Scotland and then summon up one dazzling performance to defeat New Zealand. "I agree, that is possible," Berbizier said. "I would like to think that is possible."

The way the France backs shaved their heads was a talking point last week. Now their hair is growing again, they look less like convicts. "My hair is getting better," Franck Mesnel, the centre who will be a replacement for tomorrow's game, said. He took off his baseball-style cap and ran a hand through the cornfield of stubble on his head. "We are going to have go very deep to beat Scotland. We have a lot of respect for them. Gavin Hastings is living a nice story. We [France] are under pressure — as usual."

He added: "We like to be different. Fifteen excellent individual players do not make a good team. We have to play with feeling and with French flair. Our problem is not that we are Mediterranean or Latin. It is that we are French. We are enigmas. The one enemy for us is ourselves."

Cooper flies home to assist Havant

HAVANT, who represent England in the European club hockey championship, which starts in Terrassa, Spain, tomorrow, have been drawn in pool B, where the stiffest opposition is likely to come from Amsterdam, who include Taco van den Honert, the top scorer with 11 goals in the World Cup in Australia last year (Sydney Friskin writes).

Colin Cooper, who left Havant ten months ago to work in Hong Kong, has rejoined the team for the championship, having led them to the national league title two years ago, which qualified the club for event this weekend. The other pool is likely to lie between Uhlenhorst, from Germany, the holders, and the host club, Atlético Terrassa. Leicester, short of match practice, will represent England in the women's event, which is being held in Utrecht.

Costs force cancellation

CYCLING: The Grand Prix of Wales, scheduled to be run on July 2, has been cancelled because of the cost of policing the event. The 125-mile road race, which would have been the longest one-day event in Britain this year, would have left organisers with a bill of £5,600 from Gwent police for traffic control in the Abergavenny area.

Steve Douce, the former national cyclo-cross champion who was seriously injured in a fall while mountain bike racing on Sunday, came out of a coma in Middlesbrough General Hospital yesterday. He underwent a five-hour operation on face and head injuries after the fall.

Sad day for Simtek

MOTOR RACING: The Simtek Formula One team yesterday confirmed that it was pulling out of the Canadian Grand Prix on June 11. The Banbury-based team, whose debut season last year was marred by the death of its driver, Roland Ratzenberger, has been forced to withdraw after failing to find more backing. "It is a very sad day for everyone who has been involved with Simtek Grand Prix," Nick Wirth, the team owner, said, adding that he hoped a return to racing might be possible in due course.

Bryan puts title on line

BOXING: Del Bryan, from Nottingham, the British welterweight champion, defends his title against Gary Logan, of Croydon, at York Hall, Bethnal Green, tonight. Bryan was stopped in ten rounds when challenging José Luis Navarro, of Spain, for the European title in December and has not boxed since. Logan's last bout was in October, when he drew with Nick Hall. Logan has been in training for four months, much of that time being spent with the talented and unbeaten light-middleweight, Adrian Dodson.

Avalanche intervenes

CYCLING: The nineteenth stage of the Giro d'Italia yesterday was shortened by more than a third after an avalanche blocked an Alpine pass. Pascal Richard, of Switzerland, was first past the new finish line after the road through the 2,748m-high Colle dell'Agnello, in the Italian Alps, became impassable. The riders had completed 80 miles of the 126-mile stage when it was halted. Tony Rominger, of Switzerland, has virtually clinched victory after retaining his five-minute overall lead with three stages left.

FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

The companies listed have registered their golf day for the 1995 Challenge. The top four individual scores on the day will form the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

TITLE SPONSOR
Mees Pierson
MERCHANDISE PARTNER SINCE 1993

Date	Company name	Venue	Players
June 1	UAP UK Branch	Cuddington	30
June 2	Simpsons Malt Ltd	Pilchery	38
June 5	McClure Waters	Milne	60
June 5	BP Oil & BP Energy	Canterbury	50
June 5	Hillier Hopkins	Aldenhurst G & C	30
June 6	Langford Thompson Ltd	Mere G & C	30
June 6	F C Foreman & Partners	Mornings Heath	30
June 6	The Boughton Group	Weymouth G & C	50
June 6	Imperial Tobacco	Kings Norton	60
June 6	P A Business Systems Ltd	Gainsborough	100
June 6	BP Oil International Ltd	Hever	25
June 6	General Linde	The London	50
June 7	Theodore Goddard	Royal Wimbeldon	36
June 7	Forde Export Services Ltd	Castle Rye	30
June 7	MD Foods Ingredients (UK) Ltd	Luffenham Heath	30
June 7	Gowrey Scaffolding Co (London) Ltd	Lansbury Park	60
June 7	Electrolux Ltd	Luttrellstown	100
June 7	Stairpho Interiors Plc	East Sussex National	44
June 7	Courage London North	Epping Forest	60
June 7	Penfold Mugs & Co	Worcester G & C	18
June 7	Barclays Vehicle Management Services Ltd	Wentmore G & C	40
June 8	Dunlop Industries Ltd	Gherburn Park	30
June 8	Wace Creative Imaging	Setchworth Park	70
June 8	City Networks Limited	Stoke Brook Manor	16
June 8	The Paper Makers' Allied Trades Association	The Tythington	150
June 8	Lewins Maritime Packaging Ltd	Bromfield Priory	60
June 8	ISH West Midlands Hospital	Pethall Park	24
June 8	John Hordley Skinning & Co Ltd	Gardthorpe	50
June 8	Moore Rowland Chartered Acc. Mottislands	Mottislands	70
June 8	Parsons Ltd	Kings Lynn	40
June 8	Minget Ltd	The London	72
June 8	Merrett Smith Engineering Group	Cherry Lodge	30
June 8	The Mayflower Corporation Plc	Wentworth	24
June 8	Parade Security	Silfold Park	30
June 8	Glaxo Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd	East Herts	28
June 8	Solution 6 (UK) Ltd	Chiddingfold	20
June 8	Barclays Bank Plc	Shenwood Forest	60
June 8	Chinoy Health Insurance	Wellingborough	20
June 8	British Airways Travel Shops Ltd Stoke Poges	Stoke Poges	40
June 8	Carleton Gent Limited	The Balfry	50
June 8	Crown Windows	Churston	35
June 8	Golf Monthly	Dalmahoy	40
June 8	Shaw & Co Ltd	Dulwich & Sydenham	70

OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS

COUNTRY CLUB CITROËN WATERFORD GOLF

FOR ENTRY DETAILS OR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL
0171 436 3415
OR WRITE TO: THE TIMES MEMBERSHIP CORPORATE GOLF CHALLENGE, PO BOX 4, HARRINGHAM, NORTON AL3 3SL

No regrets as Botha sizes up next set of goalposts

THE shock of blood hair and immaculate appearance ensure Naas Botha, two years into his retirement, is instantly recognisable. During South Africa's years of sporting isolation, Botha, with the collar of his shirt upturned, was the living image of Springbok rugby.

In a 15-year career that took in South Africa, Ireland and six years in Italy, he played 20 internationals and was one of the first full-time "professional" players. There was also the venture into American football with the Dallas Cowboys which ultimately lasted only 18 months but did much to shape his views on sport.

Nowadays he is back at his beloved Loftus Versfeld as public relations manager for Northern Transvaal, with whom he won nine Currie Cups. Although shorter than one imagines, at the age of 37 he still cuts an impressive figure behind the desk of his oak-paneled office.

He talks about life, politics and rugby in the same precise, measured manner that he once kicked the rugby ball. He is probably the greatest kicker the game has seen, with a phenomenal 75 per cent strike rate. It was not achieved by accident but was a tribute to endless daily one-and-a-half-hour practice sessions.

Gary Player's quip that the more he practised the luckier he became could equally apply to Botha. The golfing analogy is appropriate as that sport is his latest obsession, so much so that he hopes to make it his next career.

He intends to devote the next year of his life to achieving his goal, initially on the South African winter tour.

Mark Souster meets the former South Africa kicking machine ready for a new challenge and philosophical about missed opportunities

Already playing off a handicap of two, he believes he could soon be down to scratch. "If I really put my mind to it, after six months I would be very very competitive," he said. "I know my capabilities, and my mental state and I know what pressure is. The only thing is, can I do it for four rounds? We'll see, but life is too short to sit back and not do anything."



Botha: Impressive figure

It is the same cool, clinical, detached philosophy with which he dealt with the years of isolation and his retirement, even though South Africa are now hosting the tournament. "I've missed it so what?" is all he has to say.

Otherwise there is the occasional twinge of regret about missed opportunities. "But there was nothing I could have done to change the

situation [of the past few years]. What I have tried to do is create my own own opportunities rather than wait for the world to create the opportunities for South Africa."

Although he played in the recent Danie Craven memorial match, for which he trained for four months, there is no chance of a comeback. However, he is still happy to pass on the tricks of his trade to the next generation of players, among them South Africa's present stand-off half, Joel Stransky, whose place-kicking has improved beyond recognition after a two-hour stint with Botha.

Gavin Johnson and Neil Jenkins are others to have benefited from his advice and he would gladly help Thierry Lacroix, not that Scotland — France's next opponents — would approve. Lacroix, he believes, has little hope of becoming a consistent match-winner because of his idiosyncratic style.

For Gavin Hastings, a personal friend, he has nothing but admiration: "Gavin is kicking so nicely. It looks effortless. He is the No 1 full back in the world and is ready for this tournament."

THE TIMES

Crème 95

14-16 JUNE

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SHOW

- Are you genuinely committed to developing the full potential of your PA?
- Do you rely heavily on the skills, expertise and initiative of your secretary?
- Does your secretary have a range of responsibilities including business travel, office supplies, business technology, conferences, promotions, incentives, corporate hospitality, training and recruitment?
- Would your secretary benefit from seminars on time management, successful purchasing or motivating an office team?

THEN INVITE YOUR PA TO ATTEND CRÈME 95, WITH THE BRIEF TO IDENTIFY NEW COST SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCIES FOR YOUR OFFICE.

- Hundreds of exhibitors, offering a whole range of new products and services for effective office management, including such names as IBM, Canon, UPS, 3M, Eurostar, Panasonic, Olivetti and Fasttrak.
- Business Pavilions, dedicated to all areas of office and secretarial administration and management.
- Career and Personal Development seminars, organised by The Industrial Society and sponsored by Letham.
- Seminars on successful purchasing, given by The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply.
- Daily fashion shows, sponsored by Executive Woman Magazine, with The Ravens Collection by Hocke Ltd being modelled.

ADMISSION IS FREE — IN ADVANCE AND ON THE DOOR ON THE DAY
SEMINARS ARE EXCELLENT VALUE AT £5 PER SESSION

For details on how to pre-register for the show and seminars phone 0171-571 6682

Opening Times: Wednesday 14th June - Friday 16th June - 9.30am - 5.30pm

FRIDAY JUNE 2 1995

GOLF 42

SELF-EFFACING
WALTON EYES
RYDER CUP PLACE

Richardson's poor form clouds West Indies' crushing victory

Benjamin puts strong case for Test place

By Jack Bailey

LEICESTER (final day of three): The West Indians beat Leicestershire by 287 runs

FOR a long time yesterday it seemed that the day after the faulty widget had caused the withdrawal from the market of a million cans of beer by the sponsors of this match, the West Indians had withdrawn all interest in the game here and in the £2,500 on offer to the winners, settling for a leisurely bowl. But they knew more than those watching about the intense competition for the place of fourth seamer in the first Test match next week.

They were favoured, too, by a brisk shower just before lunch, which freshened the pitch no end, and by the particular need of Kenny Benjamin to prove a point or two after his ups and downs on Wednesday. Benjamin virtually destroyed the Leicestershire batting in his first two overs, shooting out Maddy, Smith and Aftab Habib in his first two overs as they set out on the trail of scoring 418 runs from 60 overs to win.

By the time Benjamin added the wicket of Nixon to his haul, Leicestershire had subsided to 25 for six, he had taken four wickets in five overs. Gibson had entered the fray with two wickets, bowling very fast against some irascible batting, and Browne had taken two of the five victims he eventually snuffed. The Leicestershire tail wagged, carrying the total to 130, and Milins played well, but so unrepresentative was the team Leicestershire had fielded that Andy Roberts, the West Indies coach, had as many furrows in his brow after the match as he had before.

He could, he said, have asked for better opposition. He did not feel that this match

had solved many problems, although he thought the team was pulling together well after some of them had had a go at each other in the West Indies. He would not be drawn on the line-up for the next match, against Northamptonshire, or the Test match that follows, in the absence of Brian Lara, except that Roberts is still expecting him to play at Northampton.

Roberts did admit, however, to being concerned about the form of the captain, Richie Richardson. "He needs more time out in the middle," Roberts said. "He is carrying the worries of the team. He is not yet timing the ball and I think that the injured shoulder

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES: First Innings 488 for 7 (K.L. T. Arthurton 148, S. Chandrapaul 130 not out, R.B. Richardson 60)

Second Innings

C.L. Hooper c Daken b Shervar 1
S.C. Williams at Nixon b Clarke 54
R.B. Richardson bow b Parsons 42
J.C. Adams c and b Pierson 42
K.L. T. Arthurton not out 16
S. Chandrapaul not out 8
Extras (b 4, lb 1, w 1, nb 2) 8
Total (4 wickets dec) 243

FALL OF WICKETS 1-1, 2-42, 3-100, 4-130

BOWLING: Parsons 9-30-1, Shervar 21-1-1, Daken 6-1-27-0, Clarke 8-10-35-1, Pierson 4-2-15-1

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings 194 (J. Whitaker 75, R. Dhanraj 6 for 50)

Second Innings

D.L. Maddy bow b K.C.G. Benjamin 4
B.F. Smith c Williams b K.C.G. Benjamin 6
J.J. Whitaker c Browne b Gibson 19
A. Habib c Williams b K.C.G. Benjamin 10
I.P.A. Nixon c Browne b K.C.G. Benjamin 10
J.M. Daken c Browne b Gibson 0
V.P. Clarke c and b Gibson 10
G.J. Parsons c Browne b Hooper 16
D.J. Milins c W.K.M. Benjamin 28
b Hooper 28
A.R. K. Hooper c Browne b Hooper 19
A.G. Shervar at Browne b Hooper 14
Extras (b 4, lb 2, nb 8) 14
Total 130

FALL OF WICKETS 1-4, 2-11, 3-11, 4-15, 5-19, 6-25, 7-45, 8-79, 9-85

BOWLING: K.C.G. Benjamin 11-3-50-4, Gibson 8-1-26-3, Dhanraj 6-1-25-0, W.K.M. Benjamin 1-0-1-0, Hooper 8-1-22-3

Umpires: A.A. Jones and T.E. Jesly

which kept him out during the last series has been affecting him."

You could see what he meant. On this tour, Richardson is averaging 16 in first-class cricket, 15 in all cricket. His 60 in the first innings here spoke of a man uncertain of himself and of his destiny. In the second innings yesterday morning, he was leg-before to Parsons for the second time, playing a stroke to mid-wicket from a ball that would have hit off stump.

So it seems that who will form the fast-bowling battery alongside Ambrose, Walsh and Bishop is not high on Roberts' list of concerns, alongside Lara and Richardson. Gibson can bat, but he bowled badly on the first day here: Winston Benjamin scarcely bowled in this match; Kenny Benjamin looked lethal at times, but his batting is no great shakes. With him in the team the tail could be long.

The West Indians' batting practice was of little account save to show Richardson's continued run of poor form. Williams made a neat half-century before a suicidal stroke against Clarke, who took his first wicket for Leicestershire. Adams hit two sixes in an over but, like Richardson, has yet to play a big innings. Only Arthurton and Chandrapaul looked in prime form and Arthurton it was who took the Tettey Bitter man-of-the-match award.

Breathing down his neck, though, was Kenny Benjamin. Yesterday he took the first three wickets in 12 balls to add to his two wickets in two balls that finished off the Leicestershire first innings. His spell of 7-3-21-4 was devastating, even if the opposition was hardly first class.

Turn for Essex, page 37
Wells in command, page 37



Clarke, of Leicestershire, takes evasive action as Gibson drops short yesterday

Richards may be saved for quarter-final

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN DURBAN

WHILE England struggle for the form they will need in the quarter-finals of the rugby union World Cup, they remain confident that Dean Richards has a role to play in the tournament. The Leicester No 8 has spent a frustrating fortnight in South Africa nursing a strained hamstring and may yet miss the final pool B game with Western Samoa here on Sunday, but there is optimism over his ultimate availability.

"I would like to think Dean is in the frame," Jack Rowell, the manager, said yesterday of the team to be named this evening against the Samoans. Medical advice, however, errs on the cautious side. Richards, 31, is said to be improving by the day but Terry Crystal, the team doctor, added: "At the moment I am confident Dean would be fit by the quarter-finals."

That gives Richards nine or ten clear days, depending upon whether England top their pool. Should they beat the popular Samoans, who arrived in Durban yesterday to a sung Zulu welcome and garlanded with leis, they are assured of a quarter-final played at sea level in Cape Town on June 11; should they lose, they must play at altitude in Johannesburg 24 hours earlier.

Not that the latter is worth the constant repetition given here of the canard that England are prepared to "throw" a match so as to ensure a more favourable quarter-final: Australia or South Africa will be difficult any time, anywhere.

Otherwise England's casualty list is meagre: Will Carling, the captain, is expected to train today while Rob Andrew, Jerry Guscott and Rory Underwood, all of them sore after a bruising encounter with Italy on Wednesday night, should be available. The main selection debate is whether to rest key players or to field the optimum XV in the interests of continuity.

"We need to pick for the quarter-final on form to date," Rowell said, though form in the six-point win over Argenti-

na and seven-point win over Italy does not offer great choice. Rowell suggested that Andrew, whose well-being is vital to the side, would not necessarily play against the Samoans but that leaves Mike Catt as the alternative, and it will not help to switch him from full back now.

There is a strong argument for resting Tim Rodber or Ben Clarke, Jason Leonard or Martin Bayfield, to ensure they are fresh for the quarter-final. There are, after all, seven players in the squad who have yet to appear and who are championing at the bit. Yet that must be balanced against the beneficial effects of winning the first international meeting with Western Samoa, who have enjoyed a wonderful



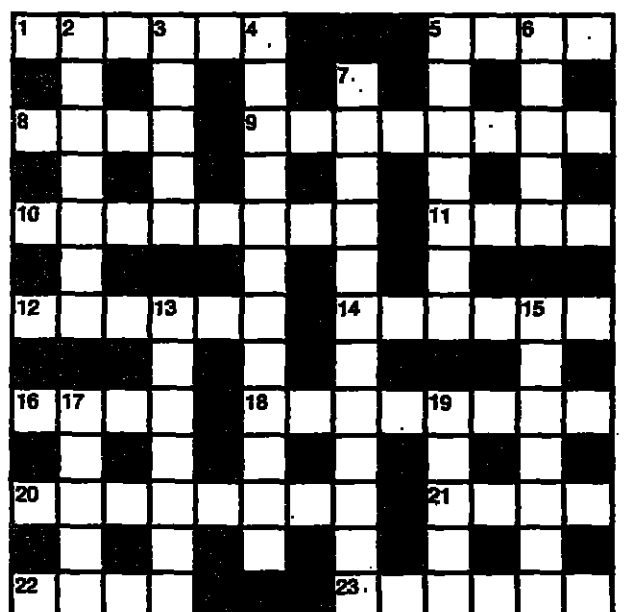
Old Black magic 40
Rob Andrew 40
Enigmatic French 41

World Cup so far but will miss their stand-off half and goalkicker, Darren Kellie.

A dislocated collarbone has put him out of the tournament but his replacement, Sam Kaleta, is a back-row forward because the experienced flanker, Junior Paramore, who has a cracked bone in his hand, will not be fit either.

Wales, who play Ireland in pool C on Sunday to decide who qualifies for the last eight with New Zealand, are expected to revert to a more conventional pack. Gareth Llewellyn will take over from Greg Prosser in the second row, leaving the selectors to ponder their make-up of the back row. Adrian Davies should return at stand-off after injury.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 485

- ACROSS
- 1 Be promoted; accelerate (4,2)
5 Jump (to throw rider) (4)
9 Be slavish; pale colour (4)
9 Herb "for remembrance" (Ophelia) (8)
10 Temporary birthrate rise (4,4)
11 Lake mud deposit (4)
12 Unpowered aircraft (6)
14 Slave to drug (6)
16 Rough edge; sticky seed-case (4)
18 Ship's stern platform (4,4)
20 Get, make master (8)
- DOWN
- 2 Hard labour (7)
3 Small coin (5)
4 Tiddling, obscene (12)
5 Dazed (7)
6 Christmas song (5)
7 I haven't the faintest idea (3,2,7)
13 Sort of Muslim monk (7)
15 Depression (weather) (7)
17 Oneness (5)
19 Flower, made into chains (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 484

ACROSS: 1 Principal 4 Peg 8 Scent 9 Mob rule
10 Stroll 12 Avert 13 Blanche 14 Hilary 17 Yodel
19 Lincol 21 Open air 22 Bravo 23 Dot 24 Excess

DOWN: 1 Push 2 Inertia 3 Cat 4 Pamela 5 Librarian
6 Prude 7 Creativity 11 Oscillate 13 Boyhood 15 Average
16 Gloria 18 Dwell 20 Boss 22 Bet

TIMES WORLD ATLASES: 9th Comprehensive Edition £26, 6th Concise Edition £19, 3rd Family Edition £18.99, Reference Edition £13.99, Compact Edition £9.99, Mini (pocket) Edition £6.99.

TIMES THEMATIC ATLASES: The Times Atlas of World History (HB) £41, Concise Edition (PB) £15.99, NEW Compact Edition (HB) £10.99, The Times Atlas of European History (HB) £26, The Times Atlas of the Second World War (HB) £19.99, NEW 50th ANNIVERSARY EDITION £25.99, The Times Atlas of Archaeology (HB) £36, The Times Atlas of History (HB) £29.99, Times include P&P (UK). Send cheques with order payable to Alkon Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Delivery in 8 days. Tel 0181-852 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.

Schaller tumbles to qualifier

FROM STUART JONES
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS

AN UNKNOWN figure intruded into the sedate progress of the established contenders at the French Open tennis championships yesterday. Scott Draper, an Australian novice who will not come of age until Monday, achieved a feat that had been beyond Pete Sampras.

He beat Gilbert Schaller, who had eliminated the second seed in the first round on Wednesday. A left-hander being touted as the new Rod Laver, he saved three match points before going through 4-6, 4-6, 7-6, 7-5, 8-6 in a dozen minutes short of four hours.

The 20-year-old from Brisbane had done nothing in the past to suggest that he might enter the main draw here, let alone reach the last 32. Other than sharing the Wimbledon junior doubles title with Steven Baldas in 1992, his list of notable honours is empty.

Apart from the Australian Open in January, when he received a wild card and lost in the first round, he had never merited a place in a grand slam championship field. Last year his prize

money amounted to the princely sum of £600. But he is developing rapidly, climbing some 300 places in the world rankings each year, and he has already learnt to treat adversity with contempt. Against Schaller, the Austrian who has beaten four members of the top ten this year, he was often down and seemingly out.

At 4-5 in the third set, he saved his first match point. At 4-5 in the ensuing tie-break, he was two points from being eliminated. He recovered from a 0-3 deficit in both the fourth and fifth sets and pulled himself back from the brink twice more at 5-6.

Dragging Schaller to the net with one of several heavily disguised drop shots, he completed the decisive break with a backhand pass to lead 7-6. In spite of committing his fifth double fault — he was contrastingly credited with 21 aces — he held on for his improbable victory.

It was his fifth so far at Roland Garros. Seeded seventh in the qualifying competition, he beat among others Roland Agener, who featured in the quarter-final here, albeit in 1989. Taken to five sets by Jonas Bjorkman in the first round, he has already played

some 172 games. Climbing into the void left by the departure of Sampras at the bottom of the draw, he has dismissed two opponents ranked in the top 25.

Since Marc Rosset, the 16th seed, was also removed from the section yesterday, Draper could raise his stature still further. He was taken aback by his own success.

"I can't believe I won," he said, "especially in five sets." He said his attacking philosophy was natural. "The only thing I know is to be aggressive. When you are down, you've got nothing to lose."



Pierce: safely through

With Mark Philippoussis, another youngster, who has been given a wild card for the tournament at Queen's, and Andrew Ilie, another qualifier also reaching the third round, Australian tennis again looks healthy. Draper claims to be too young to remember his nation's golden days.

Stefan Edberg's memory keeps returning to 1989. He confesses that his dream of collecting the one grand slam title to have eluded him probably ended the when he missed his chances in the final against a precocious 17-year-old, Michael Chang.

Unseeded for the first time at Roland Garros, the 29-year-old Swede had the misfortune to meet another former Wimbledon champion in prime form, Michael Stich. Dismissed in straight sets, Edberg was the only distinguished casualty. Of the 32 seeds, 24 are still in contention.

Mary Pierce, the Australian Open champion and beaten finalist here last year, was 3-5 down to Christine Singer, of Germany, in her second-round match before finding her touch to go through 7-5, 6-0.

Results, page 42

Lewis offered \$9m to meet Tyson

By Srikanth Sen
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

AN OFFER of \$9 million (£5.8 million) to Lennox Lewis to meet Mike Tyson has been turned down by Panos Eliades, Lewis' chief negotiator, it was revealed yesterday. The millionaire accountant said that Don King, Tyson's manager, had made him the offer an hour before Lewis met Lionel Butler in the World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight championship final eliminator in Sacramento three weeks ago.

"Nine million is a lot of money and most people would have bitten off his hand for that," Eliades said. "It looks phenomenal money, but not when you remember how much there is in the pot — \$50 million. So, I thought, why should

King take \$20 million, Tyson \$20 million and Lennox get only \$9 million? I told King that, if he was prepared to talk sensibly, we would talk. I asked him for \$25 million."

Eliades did not think his demand was too high, according to him, the WBC convention at Seville last October, had passed a resolution that the percentage split between a champion and Tyson should be 55-45. Although Lewis is no longer a champion, both parties are assuming that the British boxer would regain the title before meeting Tyson.

Eliades said: "I told Lennox about King's offer the next day and he agreed that I had done the right thing. He was not overawed by the figure of \$9 million. Lennox wants to earn money but he wants a good deal all round as well."

"King said the fight would be a joint promotion by us and him, but he wanted to have complete control, even decide what money Lennox should get."

Eliades said that he had paid Lewis between \$3 million and \$4 million a contest when he was champion. While King had not mentioned when Tyson wanted to meet Lewis, Eliades assumed the promoter was thinking about a world title defence by Lewis in May next year. King told Eliades that Tyson would not be ready to fight for the title until April.

According to Eliades, the American casinos are prepared to pay a site fee of \$15 million. Pay-per-view television in the United States alone would realise around \$30 million and British and international rights would bring in another \$10 million, at least.

Good-bye battery



Seiko Kinetic®. The first and only quartz watch that generates its own energy from your every movement. The perpetual accuracy of quartz — naturally, without a battery. Its tiny powerhouse converts even your slightest movement into electrical impulses. Ecologically sound and ultimately reliable, Seiko Kinetic is so efficient that you only need to wear it for one day to ensure enough energy reserves to last at least a week. Wear it continually and it will run for ever. 15 bar water resistant. One-way rotating bezel and screw lock crown. It's built to last. Someday all watches will be made this way.

SEIKO
KINETIC